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US Inequality Is Getting Worse, But Not How You Think

THE CONVERSATION—The buzzword of the 2026 U.S. midterm elections may be affordability, but growing anger over inequality is behind the sentiment.

A Pew Research survey released in October 2026 found that roughly 6 in 10 Americans – including 4 in 10 Republicans – believe there's too much inequality in the U.S. And a growing share from both major political parties state that the economy needs to be fundamentally rebuilt to address this.

This sentiment has, however, been difficult to convert into political results. Public support for California's proposed wealth tax on billionaires has been waning ahead of the midterms, for example, and in 2025, Republicans passed President Donald Trump's sweeping legislation that included tax cuts for the wealthy while cutting safety net programs.

Research confirms the trend of rising inequality since 1980, driven by the wealthiest pulling away not just from the middle class, but also from the "merely wealthy." Overall, recent research underscores how policy choices – including taxation and public spending – enabled this 40-year rise in inequality.

Some policies enacted more recently appear to be accelerating this trend. An analysis by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, a nonpartisan research organization, concluded that policy changes since the start of 2025 have imposed higher costs on everyone except the top 1%.

Recent federal data shows that wealth inequality continues to grow. The top 1% saw their share of wealth increase from 31.7% to 32.5% just between the first and second quarters of 2026, a jump of over $8.5 trillion. That caps a steady climb from 30.9% in the last quarter of 2024 – and from 27.4% in 1999.

These recent gains come at the expense of the middle class – the 40% between the bottom half and the top 10% – who hold only 28.8% of all wealth despite being a group that's 40 times larger than the top 1%. And the middle's share is shrinking, down from 32.9% in 1999 and 30.2% at the end of 2024, according to the data.

But the ultra-wealthy, those in the top 0.1%, are pulling away even from the rest of the rich, the data shows. This tiny elite owns 15% of all wealth – almost half of all the wealth of the top 1%. Both the top 0.1% and the next 0.9% saw their share of wealth increase, but the top 0.1% captured two-thirds of the gains between the first and second quarters of 2026.

Even within the highest echelons of wealth concentration, these two groups are on different trajectories.

Crucially, the wealth of the top 0.1% is disproportionately boosted by corporate profits, which are up sharply overall. The top 0.1% reap the most from this growth because their portfolios' value has soared on the promise of future increased profitability that's driving up stock prices – especially thanks to the tech and artificial intelligence boom.

Since President Ronald Reagan's tax cuts in the 1980s, the U.S. tax code has become less and less progressive, often through policy changes supported by both Republicans and Democrats.

The common argument for tax cuts is that they stimulate growth, but a growing body of research – including international studies – doesn't back that up. A 2025 Brookings report notes that U.S. tax policy has gone through massive changes throughout history without any discernible effect on growth.

Nonetheless, congressional Republicans used their narrow majorities in 2025 to pass Trump's sweeping policy and tax bill, which included provisions making most of his 2017 tax cuts permanent. Those included the historically low top-income tax rate and the lowest corporate tax rate since 1940.

It's also important to understand that the top 0.1% have a different tax exposure from the rest of the top 1% because the composition of their wealth is different. They own as much in stocks and mutual funds as the next 0.9%, a group that is nine times larger, and those holdings are where most of their recent gains came from.

Furthermore, roughly three-quarters of the top 0.1%'s wealth portfolio consists of corporate and business ownership, allowing them to

(See **US INEQUALITY** P. 2)

Charlotte Police Department Under Review After Racist Texts Messages

WFAE - The news conference was supposed to be an update on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's third-quarter crime statistics.

But when Chief Estella Patterson stepped to the lectern, she had something else to address first: reports that six CMPD officers were under investigation over racist and sexist messages shared in a group text.

Patterson said the reports left her feeling "disgust, anger, frustration."

"As a Black woman who began my career here, in this very department, it is especially painful and disheartening to hear concerns from our community about racism coming from within the ranks of this organization," Patterson said.

Three of the officers have resigned, Patterson said, and the other three she hoped "to soon refer to as former employees."

Patterson said CMPD has begun a department-wide audit of officer interactions and body-worn camera footage to identify misconduct. She said CMPD would also review its hiring practices to identify possible "gaps or shortcomings," and that she and other executive staff members have been meeting with officers during routine roll calls to reinforce expectations of proper officer conduct.

"I believe that all of these steps collectively will help us identify employees who are exhibiting bias toward others," Patterson said.

Under city rules, Patterson does not have the authority to fire officers. That power rests with Charlotte's Civil Service Board. Patterson said she had recommended the remaining officers be fired, and hoped the board would approve their termination.

Patterson said CMPD had also begun the process of seeking to revoke the officers' North Carolina law enforcement certificates — which would prevent them from working as police officers anywhere in the state. She said she hoped "that they will not be an officer anywhere in this country."

Racist, sexist texts come to light

WBTV first reported the allegations earlier this week, citing anonymous sources who said the officers exchanged racist text messages that included a competition to see who could pull over the most Black drivers.

The messages also reportedly included repeated uses of the N-word in discussions about using force and firing weapons at Black residents.

According to WBTV, the messages were discovered during a separate State Bureau of Investigation probe into CMPD Officer Seth Elliot, who was accused of misusing the Flock Safety camera network and other police technology to help someone involved in a drug investigation.

Investigators uncovered the text messages after downloading data from Elliot's phone and shared them with CMPD, which launched its own internal investigation. Elliot has since resigned and faces a criminal charge related to the alleged misuse of the Flock Safety technology.

At Thursday's news conference, Patterson said four of the six officers involved in the group text graduated from the police academy in 2024. She said the officers were of three different races, though she declined to specify which. Patterson said the messages dated back years, and although she had not read all of them, they demonstrated racial, sexual and religious biases.

'Not a systemic problem'

While the six officers were hired before Patterson became chief in December 2025, she said, "that does not lessen my responsibility or my commitment to making sure that what was discovered in this case is not a systemic problem in this organization."

While CMPD had not uncovered evidence any of the six officers violated residents' civil rights, Patterson said she nonetheless had asked federal officials to investigate.

As for the news conference's stated purpose — to update the public on recent crime trends — Patterson had more positive news to share: Overall crime was down 17% so far this year compared to last year, and crime in Charlotte's city center was down a considerable 23% — including a 38% drop in violent crime.

Bishop Barber Leads "March to the Polls"

By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

Bishop William J. Barber II and a coalition of civil rights, faith, and voting rights organizations started an early voting mobilization effort Thursday, leading marches to polling places across North Carolina.

The marches marked the first day of in-person early voting in North Carolina, with members of Barber's Love Forward Together Voter Mobilization Initiative gathering in northwest Charlotte on Thursday for a "March to the Polls."

Organizers are supplementing the marches with text messaging campaigns, phone banks and door-to-door canvassing designed to reach voters where they live and make sure they know when, where and how to vote.

Dr. Hannah R. Broome, Repairers of the Breach's director for religious affairs, said the effort is particularly important in a state where changes to voting rules can leave people uncertain about the process.

"In this state, the rules keep changing, and confusion is its own kind of suppression," Broome said. "When people aren't sure of the rules, some of them stay home. We are here to interrupt the confusion."

Repairers of the Breach, the organization Barber leads, is coordinating a nationwide initiative known as "1,000 Marches to the Polls," encouraging people to march, drive, and gather at polling places during the early voting period.

In Durham, Barber returned to North Carolina Central University, his alma mater, where voters and organizers marched from St. Joseph's AME Church to the Turner Law Building, one of Durham County's 10 early voting locations.

Barber spoke with gatherers outside the university's law school, where early voting was underway, and encouraged students to understand how their ballots connect to the policies that affect their education, families and communities. He said the march was intended to inspire students and other voters while reminding them that the right to vote was not won through silence or inaction.

"We marched for it. We fought for it, mobilized," Barber said.

North Carolina voters have fought to preserve access to same-day voter registration and early voting, Barber said, making participation especially important now that those opportunities are available. He urged voters not to treat their political power as something to hold onto but as something to put into action.

"Now that we've held onto the power, it's no good if we don't use it," Barber said. "One of our mantras is, it's time to get our power out of our pocket. Don't hold on to it. Get it out of your pocket."

Barber also challenged students to consider how elected officials influence issues that may appear far removed from the voting booth but directly affect their lives. Healthcare, funding for historically Black colleges and universities, and wages for working families, he said, are all shaped in part by the decisions of people elected to public office.

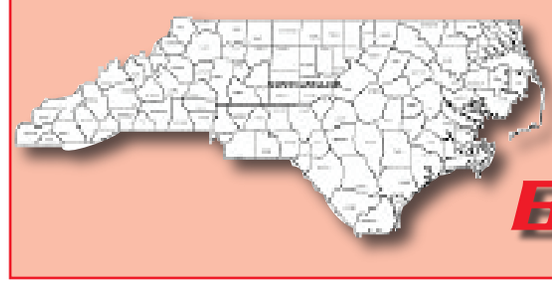
"Everything is on the ballot," Barber said. "Any issue you pick — if you're concerned about healthcare, if you're concerned about whether or not HBCU's are going to be funded equally and equitably, if you're concerned about your moms and dads making a living wage — politicians who get elected determine all of those matters."

In Wilson, Barber and the Rev. Della Owens-Barber joined St. James Christian Church and Repairers of the Breach for another march to the polls Thursday afternoon. About 50 participants gathered before walking and shuttling the three-block stretch from the First Christian Church parking lot to the Wilson County Board of Elections.

The mobilization also brought together voting rights organizations in Raleigh, where Barber was scheduled to join Forward Justice, Democracy North Carolina, Common Cause North Carolina and Brava NC for an early morning march and news conference at Fulfilled Promise Tabernacle.

The event featured remarks from Barber, Broome and representatives of participating organizations, including Caitlin Swain of Forward Justice, Joselle Torres of Democracy North Carolina, Sailor Jones of Common Cause North Carolina and Illiana Santillan of Brava NC.

North Carolina's in-person early voting period ends Oct. 31 at 3 p.m.



CLEARING OF DURHAM'S HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS TESTS NC COMMUNITY'S RESOLVE

NC NEWSLINE - Tito Husband began his first week as store manager of the Food Lion on the corner of Fayetteville and Pilot streets about a week after Durham police launched "Operation Safe Passage" to remove a nearby homeless encampment, which allegedly doubled as an open-air drug market. Husband told NC Newsline that he was already aware of the encampment and its resulting chaos before his arrival. Residents who live near the store had begun to shop at the Lakewood Shopping Center Food Lion, where he worked before his new assignment, to avoid aggressive panhandling at the Fayetteville Street store, he said.

Since Husband has become store manager at the Fayetteville Street store, customers have told him that the panhandling has eased since police cleared the encampment that was along the city's popular American Tobacco Trail.

"There's still a little bit of panhandling in the area, but I'm trying to deal with it as best as I can," Husband told NC Newsline last week. "As soon as customers let me know that panhandlers are in the area, we try to get police involved so we can make a better experience for our customers.

The former encampment — and others still intact across Durham — have tested a city long known as a welcoming haven for people struggling with homelessness, addiction, or other social challenges.

"We've been hearing a lot from people who are unhappy about the way we've approached encampments — both directions, right?" Durham City Councilwoman Chelsea Cook said during a recent work session. "Some folks are unhappy that we have cleared encampments and not others. They feel that because there is no policy that we're sort of applying things and they don't see the reason behind them."

Even socially conscious residents who live in neighborhoods where encampments have sprung up have grown weary of the criminal activity, debasement of property and life and violence they say sometimes accompany such encampments.

"I can speak for thousands and thousands of African Americans who live in this city — we are tired of the crap," Victoria Petersen, a longtime Durham activist, said during the work session. "We're tired of these tents all over the place and talk about we've got to find someplace for all of these homeless people."

Petersen said the encampment near Fayetteville and Pilot streets was rife with drugs, prostitution and gang activity. Its location near Fayetteville Street Elementary School, "where children can see," made its presence in the neighborhood worse, she said.

Police made several arrests and confiscated drugs and weapons during Operation Safe Passage. It cleared the homeless encampment and erected a chain link fence to prevent people from returning to the area. City officials have told area media that police have responded to more than 700 calls for service in the area. Those calls included two for homicides and one for a sexual assault.

Former Durham city councilwoman Jackie Wagstaff told NC Newsline that the encampment was "truly out of control."

"The bus shelter became an extension of their tents. They would go sit in there all day," Wagstaff said. "You could drive by anytime and see somebody sitting in there with no shirt on, high as a kite. That is what we had to deal with."

Wagstaff said the encampment also created a harrowing experience for residents who used the trail for biking or walking.

"The people who bike on that trail, when they got to the encampment, they literally had to part the Red Sea to get through there," Wagstaff said.

At the work session, Wagstaff complained that it took multiple calls to the city to get police to address the encampment problem. Similar calls from more affluent areas are addressed more quickly, she said.

"This is bigger than one block," Wagstaff said. "It is about whether Durham will treat residents fairly no matter their zip code, income level or political influence, and whether unhoused people will be met with real solutions instead of inconsistent crisis management."

Others who spoke at the council work session were critical of the police clearing the encampment.

"It was a reprehensible targeting and vilification of the most vulnerable people in our city, and also cruelly orchestrated to dehumanize its victims and be celebrated as if it were a victory," said Rayna Rusenko, a sociologist of homelessness and public policy. "These actions do not bring safety."

(See **DURHAM'S HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS,** P. 5)

McClellan Captures The Legacy Of Black Cowboy Culture

By Robert Lang
Deadline

For generations, Hollywood has perpetuated an image of the American cowboy as a rugged, solitary white man riding across an unforgiving frontier. It is a mythology deeply embedded in American popular culture, one that has frequently overlooked the Black cowboys who helped shape the West and whose traditions continue to thrive today.

Photographer Ivan McClellan has spent more than a decade capturing a different American West, one populated by Black cowboys and cowgirls whose lives combine athleticism, family traditions, contemporary fashion, and an unwavering devotion to rodeo culture.

His new photography book, Eight Seconds: Legacy in Motion, published by Damiani, continues that exploration with 91 previously unpublished photographs celebrating a vibrant community that is not merely preserving its heritage but actively reinventing it.

Scheduled for release in fall 2026, the 112-page hardcover follows McClellan's acclaimed 2024 publication, Eight Seconds: Black Rodeo Culture.

For McClellan, however, the project has never been about reconstructing a forgotten chapter of American history. Instead, he is interested in celebrating the extraordinary individuals who inhabit this world today.

"I grew up watching Westerns on TV obsessively as a latchkey kid," McClellan recalls. "Everybody was white except for one time: there was an episode of The Rifleman with Sammy Davis Jr. and Sheriff Bart on Blazing Saddles. I thought a Black cowboy was more of a punchline than a reality."

"But I'm not trying to correct Hollywood's Western archetypes. I want to elevate these modern Black cowboys, who are compelling and essential, to icon status."

His introduction to Black rodeo culture came in 2015, beginning what would become an extensive photographic journey across the United States. Over the following decade, McClellan immersed himself in the community, building relationships with competitors and their families while documenting the intensity of the sport and the lives that unfold beyond the arena.

"When I started photographing Black rodeos, I wasn't looking for historical artifacts," he explains. "I found an incredibly stylish, charismatic, competitive group of people with larger-than-life personalities. The kind of people Hollywood should have been making movies about all along."

"And I think that's the real power of photography. I don't have to invent a Black cowboy superhero. I just have to show up with my camera. These people are already extraordinary."

The title Eight Seconds refers to the minimum amount of time a bull rider must remain mounted to earn a qualified ride. It is a brief, dangerous interval in which physical discipline, instinct, and extraordinary courage converge. Yet McClellan's photographs extend far beyond the adrenaline of competition.

His portraits reveal an evolving Western aesthetic in which traditional cowboy hats and boots coexist with contemporary style. The resulting imagery challenges the familiar visual codes of the Hollywood Western without losing sight of the culture's deep historical roots.

"There's this expectation that a cowboy should look like he just walked off the set of a Spaghetti Western," McClellan says. "But you go to a Black rodeo, and you'll see guys riding in Jordans and a cowboy hat. You see women riding 50 miles per hour with box braids blowing behind them."

"I love those contradictions. That's where the magic is." For McClellan, this distinctive fusion of tradition and modernity is an extension of Black America's long history of cultural innovation.

"Black people have always had this incredible ability to take something, remix it, and create an entirely new visual language. We've done it with music, fashion, food, and just about every other part of American culture. Cowboy culture is no different."

Rather than imposing a particular aesthetic on his subjects, McClellan allows their personalities and individual styles to shape the images.

"People I'm photographing aren't trying to make some grand fashion statement. They're just showing up as their authentic selves," he adds. "They're not thinking about redefining the American West. They're living their lives."

Among the most significant figures in McClellan's latest book is 17-year-old cowgirl Kortnee Solomon, whose portrait appears on the cover of Eight Seconds: Legacy in Motion. A fourth-generation cowgirl, Solomon represents both the continuity of Black rodeo traditions and the confidence of a younger generation determined to define the culture on its own terms.

McClellan first encountered Solomon and her mother, Kanesha Jackson, in Hempstead, Texas, when the young rider was just nine years old. "I've watched Kortnee Solomon grow up doing this work," he recalls. "She's a 4th-generation cowgirl and walks around with the swagger of someone who knows exactly who she is."

Solomon's cover portrait shows her surrounded by horses, wearing a striking pink, blue, and yellow shirt covered in hundred-dollar bills.

Bakari Sellers Speaks at Harnett County NAACP Banquet

By Jheri Hardaway
Staff Writer

Dunn, NC — Saturday, October 17th, gathering under the resolute theme "Standing on the Shoulders of Freedom: Advancing Civil Rights in Critical Times," the Harnett County Branch of the NAACP (Branch 5473-B) hosted its 56th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet at the Dunn Community Building. The evening blended commemoration with a clarion call to community action, bringing together local civil rights champions, clergy, educators, elected leaders, and candidates just days after the launch of North Carolina's early voting period.

Welcoming attendees to what she affirmed was "not just an occasion, but a movement," branch President Benita Harrington framed the gathering as both an obligation to history and an urgent test of unity. "We stand here tonight because somebody stood before us, somebody marched when their feet were tired, somebody prayed when hope seemed distant, and somebody endured jail cells, hatred, humiliation, and even death so that our generation could stand," attendees were reminded. "Leadership is about accountability. Leadership is about having the courage to stand for what is right, even when you stand alone."

Area clergy leaders pressed the room to turn faith into civic power at the ballot box: "Early voting kicked off on Thursday. Please go vote, vote, vote. We have to do it together to see the change that we want to see." Following an invocation and introduction by Reverend K. Swann, who humorously reminded the room of his pastor's rule that "if you don't vote, you don't eat," the podium was turned over to civil rights attorney, author, political commentator, and former South Carolina State Representative Bakari Sellers.

Sellers opened his keynote by expressing gratitude and paying tribute to branch president Mrs. Harrington and North Carolina state NAACP President Deborah Dicks Maxwell, acknowledging the relentless demand placed on those leading local branches and grassroots movements. Pointing to public servants and candidates in the room, Sellers recognized the courage required to be intentional on a Saturday night in an era when public expectations are high and civil discourse is fractured. Turning to history, Sellers set aside conventional, docile depictions of the civil rights movement, choosing instead to strip away historical revisions and focus on what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. termed the "fierce urgency of now." "Introspective moments only require two really simple questions," Sellers told the audience. "The first question you ask yourself is: How far have we come? And the next question is: Where do we go from here?"

To measure that distance, Sellers guided the audience through landmark, often overlooked milestones of Southern resistance and sacrifice. First, in 1948, George Elmore challenged South Carolina's all-white primary system in Elmore v. Rice. While the lawsuit successfully secured African Americans the right to vote in primaries, Elmore paid an unimaginable price, his businesses were boycotted and firebombed, his family was driven into tragedy, and he died broken. "If it wasn't so damn important, they wouldn't work so hard to take it from us," Sellers reminded the crowd, connecting Elmore's sacrifice directly to modern voter suppression efforts.

Next he spoke on Sarah Mae Fleming. Eighteen months before Rosa Parks took her stand in Montgomery, 22-year-old domestic worker Sarah Mae Fleming was brutally struck by a bus driver for attempting to exit through the front door of a segregated bus. Fleming worked with NAACP attorneys to strike down segregated seating on municipal buses. Like the prophet Isaiah saying "Here am I, Lord, send me," Fleming showed how everyday working-class people become the cornerstone of historic change.

The final contextual example was of Harry and Eliza Briggs. In Clarendon County, South Carolina, the Briggs family sought nothing more radical than a school bus so their children would not have to walk miles to substandard facilities while white students rode by. Their lawsuit became Briggs v. Elliott, the primary building block of the landmark 1954 Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision.

Sellers noted that while tangible progress has been made, true equality remains unfulfilled when rural communities still suffer from neglected public transit, substandard infrastructure, contaminated drinking water, and schools ill-equipped for a 21st-century global economy. "The answer to the question, how far have we come? is that we've made a great deal of progress," Sellers said. "The rub comes because there are a lot of people who want to put a period at the end of that sentence, when it should be a dot, dot, dot. We've made progress, but we still have a ways to go."

Addressing the much harder question of where do we go from here, Sellers shared personal history, recounting the legacy of his father, civil rights activist Dr. Cleveland Sellers. A leader within the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the elder Sellers organized voter registration drives during Freedom Summer and survived the 1968 Orangeburg Massacre at South Carolina State University, where state troopers fired into a crowd of unarmed students, killing three young men—Henry Smith, Samuel Hammond, and Delano Middleton—and wounding 28 others. Cleveland Sellers was falsely branded an "outside agitator" and convicted of rioting, becoming the nation's only one-man riot conviction. Sellers explained that enduring these generational struggles requires answering the future with three core commitments:

Dream With Your Eyes Open: Moving beyond passive wishful thinking to actively rebuild ambition and cultivate Black excellence in government, law, education, and industry.

Love Your Neighbor Even When They Don't Love You: Practicing an unconditional, radical love that refuses to let bitterness dictate community action or public engagement.

Extend Grace to One Another and Ourselves: Acknowledging the heavy generational trauma carried by young people who have lived through continuous economic crashes, systemic violence, a global pandemic, and digital polarization, and providing them the grace and mental space to heal and lead.

"The funny part about this journey that we're on together is that we probably won't be famous, our names probably won't be in lights, and we probably won't be rich," Sellers concluded. "But at the end of our journey, as we sit in this bastion of urgency, think about Henry Smith, Samuel Hammond, and Delano Middleton. Maybe they will simply look down and say: Job well done."

A centerpiece of the evening's celebration was the presentation of community awards honoring the local leaders, institutions, and grassroots pioneers working tirelessly across Harnett County. Branch 5473-B presented the Outstanding Church Award to Davis Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church for its faithful spiritual foundation and service, while Purpose Pushers Life Academy was recognized with the Activism Award for dynamic community impact. Reflecting the branch's commitment to uplifting the next generation, Jayden Bates was celebrated as the Youth Trailblazer Award recipient, alongside recognition for Community Youth Leadership. In recognition of civic and public welfare advocacy, Commissioner Barbara McKoy received the Community Services for Environmental Support Award. In one of the most moving moments of the night, the banquet paid tribute to living history by honoring centenarian Isabell Phillips with the Century Circle Award (100 Yrs+), a stirring embodiment of the evening's theme of standing on the resilient shoulders of those who paved the way.

A renewed energy circulated as attendees pledged to support Branch 5473-B's ongoing civil rights initiatives, community outreach, and voter mobilization drives throughout Harnett County.

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US INEQUALITY

Continued from page 1

benefit from the Trump tax cuts in multiple ways – including lower tax rates and more opportunities to defer or avoid tax liability. Their massive holdings of stock mean that they can borrow against it for cash, usually tax-free, rather than having to sell shares.

By contrast, below that elite, real estate is a much more important component of wealth, while corporate equity is a smaller and smaller share. For the middle class, nearly two-thirds of wealth is held in their homes and retirement savings, while corporate and business ownership accounts for only 15%.

Much of the inequality debate focuses on the role that taxation has played. But other recent policy changes have shifted different kinds of costs on to low- and middle-income earners, while leaving the wealthy relatively unscathed.

One example is a provision in Trump's 2025 legislation that allowed federal healthcare subsidies through the Affordable Car Act to lapse. Insurers and analysts expect the number of people signing up for coverage through ACA plans to drop by about 5 million due to higher premiums and face much higher out-of-pocket costs.

The spike in energy costs, including gasoline, diesel and heating oil, is another case in point. They disproportionately affect low- and middle-income consumers but barely dent the budgets of the wealthy – while boosting the profits of companies engaged to the extraction, processing and transportation of oil. This divergence has been especially pronounced since the start of the conflict with Iran in February 2026, which has pushed up the global price of oil.

Then there are tariffs, which are fundamentally a consumption tax on imports. Economists at the New York Federal Reserve have found that these levies have inflicted a heavy hit on many common consumer goods. They estimated that prices for these items, which make up a much larger share of household budgets among the nonwealthy, would have fallen on average by 1% over the year without the tariffs. Instead, they have risen by 2.9%.

This acceleration in the redistribution of wealth from the middle class to the very top, in short, has an array of drivers. But they're not inexorable forces of history. As economist Thomas Piketty put it in "A Brief History of Equality," published in 2022: "Inequality is first of all a social, historical, and political construction."

Business & Finance

Preserving Legacies, Building Wealth: North Carolina Business Leaders Celebrate Employee Ownership

By Jheri Hardaway
Staff Writer

Greensboro, NC — As an estimated 82,000 small-business owners across North Carolina approach retirement age—a demographic shift widely referred to as the "Silver Tsunami"—the challenge of succession planning has become one of the state's most pressing economic questions. Ownership is the major issue, but also institutional knowledge. As Baby Boomers retire with their ownership and insight, what does that say for the succession of our local businesses?

On the evening of Thursday, October 15th, business owners, professional advisors, and community leaders gathered at the employee-owned O. Henry Hotel in Greensboro for the North Carolina Employee Ownership Center's (NCEOC) 2026 Annual Celebration. The gathering coincided with October's Employee Ownership Month, an observance officially recognized statewide by Governor Josh Stein.

Opening the evening, NCEOC Board Chair Merald Holloway underscored that succession planning is about safeguarding families and entire communities. "My dad used to tell me, 'If you fail to plan, you plan to fail,'" Holloway said. "We know that a lot of our small business owners don't have a plan. And when it's time to step away, it can impact employees, families, and entire communities. At NCEOC, we're not telling people what to do—we're just making sure they understand all of their options."

A central theme of the evening was educating business owners on how transitions actually work. NCEOC leadership tackled the primary misconceptions that often deter founders from exploring employee ownership models:

Myth 1: Employees must pay out of pocket. In reality, transitions are financed through internal company profits, bank loans, seller financing, or a combination thereof. Employees do not take on personal debt or drain savings to participate.

Myth 2: Day-to-day management dissolves into a free-for-all. Converting to an employee-owned model does not eliminate traditional organizational hierarchies. Companies operate with professional managers, boards of directors, and executive leadership just as conventional businesses do.

Myth 3: Owners must sacrifice fair market value. Business transitions are conducted at certified, fair-market valuations. While private equity firms may occasionally offer speculative multiples, they frequently break up companies, lay off local staff, or erase the brand's local heritage. Employee ownership preserves full legacy while securing market value for the founder.

Gerry McCants, Business Activist, Small Business Advocate and Strategist, attended the event and emphasized, "Employee ownership provides unique benefits for small businesses that want to maintain and attract employees." With approximately 140 employee-owned companies now headquartered across North Carolina, NCEOC works across three primary structures tailored to varying business sizes, industries, and founder objectives. First, Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs): Ideal for mid-sized to larger firms (often 20 to 30+ employees), ESOPs are qualified retirement plans that provide significant corporate and personal tax incentives while purchasing shares on behalf of a broad-based employee trust. Second, Employee Ownership Trusts (EOTs): A flexible, cost-effective alternative for small-to-mid-sized enterprises where a traditional ESOP may prove too administrative or expensive. EOTs hold company shares in a permanent, purpose-driven trust, allowing profits to be distributed directly to workers through profit-sharing mechanisms during their working careers rather than waiting solely on retirement distributions. Finally, Worker Cooperatives: Fully democratic models where employees own equal shares and operate on a one-member, one-vote governance structure, frequently utilized by small businesses, service providers, and local community ventures. Transitions can also be implemented gradually—such as a 30% partial sale allowing a serial entrepreneur to access liquidity to launch a new venture while testing succession internally.

The celebration highlighted 11 recent conversions across the state, featuring testimonials from business leaders who chose employee ownership over outside acquisition.

Tori Evans of Landmark Builders presented first. They are actively preserving a 50-year family construction legacy. A Winston-Salem-based commercial general contractor with over 220 employees across four regional offices shared how second-generation owners Sam and Steve Stevens transitioned the company to an ESOP. Rather than selling to outside buyers in a consolidating market, the owners protected their late father's name, maintained local independence, and established long-term financial equity for career employees.

Joe Marco, founder of Mooresville-based HMS Motorsports—a 13-person firm whose safety harnesses and gear equip every NASCAR Cup car—spent a decade seeking an exit strategy that would protect his dedicated crew. In an effort to protect his niche manufacturing firm and find an ESOP too complex for a tight-knit operation, Marco worked alongside NCEOC and tax advisors to establish an Employee Ownership Trust. Today, under newly appointed President Austin Long, the company practices open-book management. In its first fiscal year under employee ownership, HMS exceeded previous revenue by 28% and funded all inventory cycles without tapping its credit line.

Commercial paving contractor Ruston Paving, founded in 1943, recently completed an ESOP conversion. They are passionate about rewarding hard workers in the heavy infrastructure space. The company controller detailed how the owner rejected private equity inquiries to prevent corporate restructuring, instead creating an ownership vehicle that directly rewards field crews and heavy equipment operators for decades of physical labor.

North Carolina has emerged as a national leader in municipal and regional employee ownership strategies. NCEOC highlighted partnerships with the cities of Raleigh and Durham, which have incorporated employee ownership outreach into small-business retention policies. In Western North Carolina, the WNC Roots Collaborative—backed by Dogwood Health Trust in partnership with Mountain BizWorks and The Industrial Commons—continues to preserve rural manufacturing and legacy storefronts. Supported by new USDA grants, NCEOC is extending similar educational and feasibility resources to Eastern North Carolina while opening new initiatives in Charlotte.

To ensure business owners receive qualified guidance, NCEOC also recognized the newest graduates of its Employee Ownership Ambassador Program—Anne Stapleton, Kermit Coble, and Dan Conger, professional advisors trained to walk local founders through early feasibility and succession planning.

For North Carolina business owners navigating an exit, the core message was clear: retiring does not have to mean selling out, shuttering, or risking the livelihoods of the people who built the business. Employee ownership keeps jobs rooted, secures company value, and allows local legacies to endure.

Reports Of Scam Losses Topped $1 Billion In NC Over Five Years

Scam-related losses reported by North Carolina consumers topped $1 billion over five years, according to an analysis of Federal Trade Commission data provided to Enlace Latino NC by The Associated Press.

The amount of money reported as lost increased every year from 2021 through 2025. It rose from about $95 million in 2021 to just over $342 million in 2025.

The number of reports did not grow at the same pace. There were 71,000 scam reports in 2021 and 74,000 in 2025, but the number dipped in the intervening years.

Those numbers show only part of the problem.

The data reflect what consumers reported both directly to the FTC as well as other scam-tracking institutions that share data with the federal agency. A report does not mean authorities verified that a scam occurred, and many people who experience a scam never file one.

AP created an interactive tool that allows readers to explore scam reports in North Carolina counties. Student journalists at Indiana University's Arnolt Center for Investigative Journalism helped AP analyze the data.

What doesn't appear in the reports

One category in particular illustrates the limits of what these data can tell us.

In Durham County, where about 350,000 people live, just seven reports were classified as immigration services scams during the five years. Despite the small number, they were enough to give Durham the highest per-capita rate in North Carolina for that category.

The FTC has been aware for years of concerns involving immigration services scams in North Carolina. In 2014, the FTC and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services held an event in Durham focused on consumer protection in immigrant communities that addressed, among other issues, immigration services and notario scams.

The low number of reports raises a question: How many of the scams affecting immigrant communities are not reported?

These data cannot answer that question.

However, the FTC has previously acknowledged that it receives reports from Latino communities at a lower rate than from the general population and has identified potential barriers to reporting, including not knowing where to report, distrust of government and concerns related to immigration status.

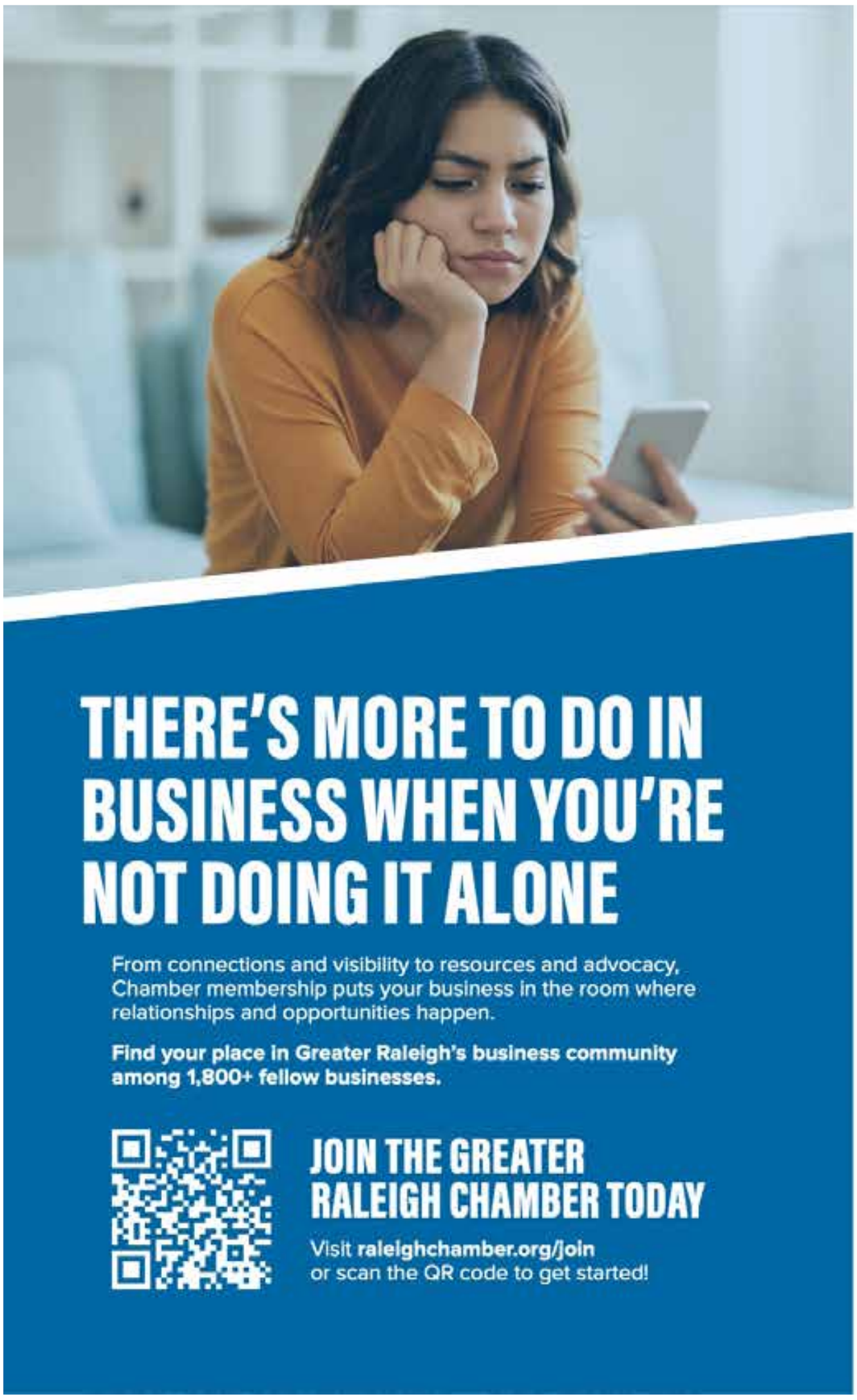
'Anyone can fall for a scam'

For Daniel Simons, understanding why people can be deceived requires moving away from the assumption that scams work simply because someone was careless.

Simons, a psychology professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and co-author of Nobody's Fool, studies attention, perception, memory and thinking.

"Anyone can fall for a scam," he said.

(See ***NC SCAMS TOPPED $1B,*** P. 4)



Governor Stein Announces $504 Million of Investment And 78 New Jobs For Rural Counties In North Carolina

(RALEIGH) —Governor Josh Stein announced that North Carolina's Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) has approved nine grant requests for local governments totaling $2,236,000. The grants include commitments to create a total of 219 jobs, 141 of which were previously announced. As a result of these grants, the additional private investment in these projects is expected to exceed $504 million.

"These infrastructure grants strengthen the foundation for growth in rural North Carolina," said Governor Josh Stein. "This funding helps towns and counties compete for new economic development opportunities and create lasting prosperity for North Carolinians across our state."

The RIA is supported by the rural economic development team at the North Carolina Department of Commerce. RIA members review and approve funding requests from local communities. Funding comes from a variety of specialized grant and loan programs offered and managed by the North Carolina Department of Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division, which is led by Assistant Secretary for Rural Development Reginald Speight. Grants support a variety of activities, including infrastructure development, building renovation, building expansion, building demolition, and site improvements.

"Investing in rural communities is essential to North Carolina's continued economic growth and success," said N.C. Commerce Secretary Lee Lilley. "By strengthening the public infrastructure that supports local economies, we can enhance our state's competitiveness, attract new businesses, create jobs, and expand economic opportunities for communities across North Carolina."

The RIA approved six grant requests under the state's Building Reuse Program. The grants fall into two categories:

Vacant Building Category

Cleveland County: A $129,000 grant will support the reuse of a 26,447-square-foot building in Shelby for Safety Test & Equipment Company, which manufactures safety equipment for utility workers and repair trucks. The project is expected to create 17 jobs with an investment of $137,050.

City of Fayetteville (Cumberland County): A $152,000 grant will support the reuse of a 17,170-square-foot building in Fayetteville for Sigma Crossings & Railroad Products, Inc. The company manufactures railroad products for short line railroads, transit systems, and industrial customers. The project is expected to create 20 jobs and attract an investment of $3,581,000.

Existing Business Building Category

Beaufort County: A $50,000 grant will support the renovation of a 175,000-square-foot building in Washington for MJM Yachts, which designs and builds high-performance power yachts. The company will create 13 jobs with an investment of $140,076.

Pitt County: An $80,000 grant will support a 56,260-square-foot expansion of a building in Greenville for Edgecombe Furniture. The family-owned company manufactures furniture for the hospitality sector. The project is expected to create 10 jobs and invest $3,847,222.

Vance County: A $144,000 grant will support a 100,000-square-foot expansion of an existing building in Henderson that is occupied by Select Products Holdings, LLC. The privately held company converts paper into paper towels, bathroom tissue, and facial tissue for retailers. The project is expected to create 18 jobs with an investment of $23,856,000.

City of Wilson (Wilson County): A $500,000 grant will support the renovation of a 310,000-square-foot building in Wilson. Reckitt Benckiser manufactures health, hygiene, and nutrition products, including Mucinex. Overall, the project is expected to create 289 jobs, while 112 jobs and an investment of $432,600,000 are tied to this grant.

The Building Reuse Program provides grants to local governments to renovate vacant buildings, renovate and/or expand buildings occupied by existing North Carolina companies and renovate, expand, or construct health care facilities that will lead to the creation of new jobs in Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties, as well as in rural census tracts of Tier 3 counties.

The RIA approved two grant requests under the state's Rural Downtown Economic Development program. The grants fall into two categories:

Public Buildings Category

Town of Clinton (Sampson County): An $81,000 grant will support the restoration of the Clinton Theatre with a new roof. The grant will help prevent deterioration of the structure and protect the recently renovated interior. This project is expected to leverage an additional investment of $10,019.

Public Infrastructure Category

Town of Elkin (Surry County): A $100,000 grant will help the town improve pedestrian connectivity and ADA accessibility for the Elkin Public Library. The project will add 260 feet of sidewalks on Front Street, repair existing sidewalks, and restore a historic stone retaining wall. The grant is expected to leverage an additional investment of $8,053.

The Rural Downtown Economic Development Grants program provides grants to local governments to support downtown revitalization and economic development initiatives. These grants are intended to help local governments grow and leverage downtown districts as assets for economic growth, economic development, and prosperity by providing public improvements to help retain businesses and leverage main street assets for community-wide use.

The RIA approved one grant request under the state's Industrial Development Fund – Utility Account program:

Scotland County: A $1,000,000 grant will support sewer and water improvements at the Southeast Regional Airport Authority Industrial Park for Great Southern Wood Preserving's lumber treatment manufacturing facility. The overall project is expected to invest $40 million with 29 jobs tied to the grant.

The Industrial Development Fund – Utility Account provides grants to local governments located in the 80 most economically distressed counties of the state, which are classified as either Tier 1 or Tier 2. Funds support publicly owned utility infrastructure projects that promote economic growth by encouraging new job creation. The IDF – Utility Account is funded through a process tied to the state's signature Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) program. When JDIG-awarded companies choose to locate or expand in a Tier 2 or Tier 3 county, a portion of that JDIG award is channeled into the Utility Account. These infrastructure projects typically include improvements or expansions to water, sewer, electric, gas, and broadband systems that directly support business development and industrial expansion.

In addition to reviewing and approving funding requests, the N.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority formulates policies and priorities for grant and loan programs administered by the Commerce Department's Rural Economic Development team. Its 17 voting members are appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House, and Senate President Pro Tem. The North Carolina Secretary of Commerce serves as an ex officio member of the authority.

NC SCAMS TOPPED $1B

Continued from page 3

A scam works because it reaches the right person at the right moment, Simons explained.

Scammers can construct a story around something a person wants, fears or expects. They can also use personal information to make the story more convincing and create urgency that gives someone less time to question what is happening.

The details can also change depending on whom scammers are trying to deceive. Simons pointed to scams targeting people of Chinese origin in which someone impersonates a Chinese government authority. The example shows how a scammer can draw on institutions, concerns or circumstances that are familiar to the person being targeted.

That principle can be relevant to immigrant communities.

Language, unfamiliarity with how certain institutions operate in the United States or concerns related to immigration can be among the circumstances a scammer attempts to exploit.

That does not mean immigrants are easier to deceive. It means, Simons explained, that scammers look for what could make a story appear credible to a particular person.

Different reports across the state

The types of scams that stand out in the data also vary depending on location.

Mecklenburg County had the highest per-capita rate in the state in eight of 47 sub-categories of scams the FTC tracks, including those related to online shopping, diet products and debt counseling.

In online shopping alone, Mecklenburg recorded nearly 7,000 reports during five years.

In coastal Brunswick County, the sub-categories with the state's highest rates were different. Brunswick led in six types of scams, including those targeting romance, tech support, and timeshares and vacations.

The data do not establish why certain types of reports have higher rates in some counties than in others.

Slowing down before acting

One warning sign comes when someone asks for money or private information while also pressuring a person to act immediately, scam expert Simons explained.

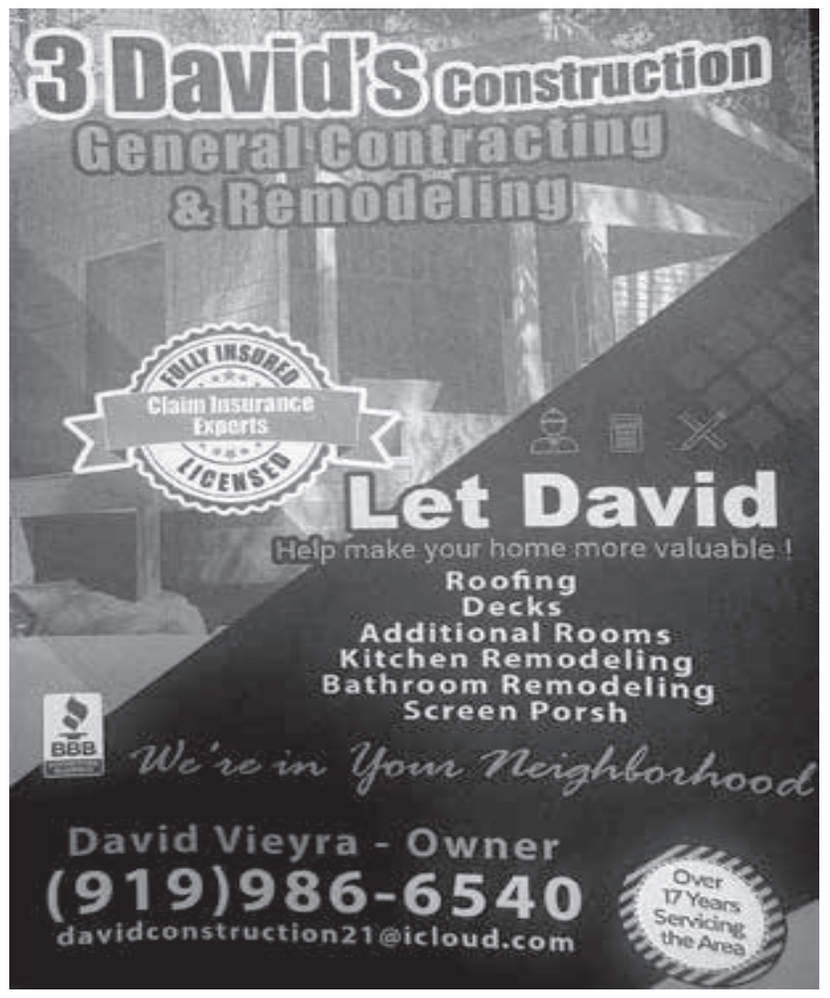
At that point, stopping the interaction before making a decision and consulting someone who is not involved can help.

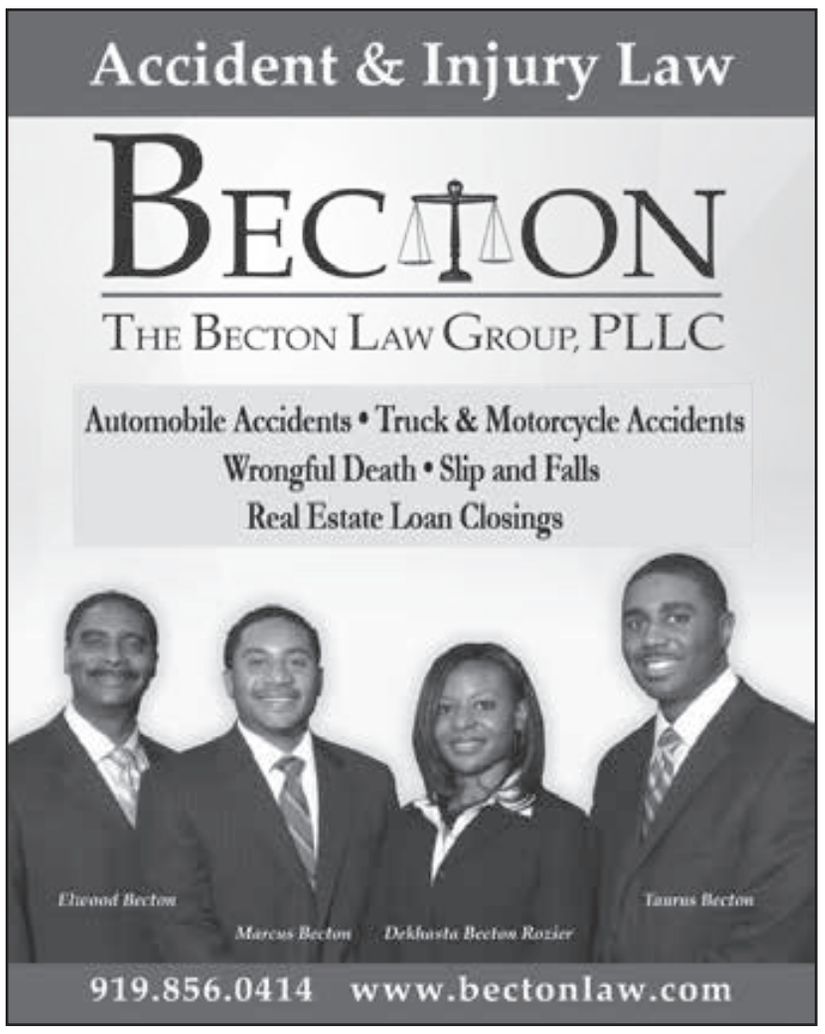
That person, Simons said, has not been subjected to the same pressure or story the scammer created.

The North Carolina Department of Justice also recommends verifying that a website or business is legitimate before providing money or private information. People who believe they may have been victims of a scam can file a complaint with the department.

The office does not have criminal jurisdiction, but works with law enforcement agencies and other partners to try to prevent scams and assist authorities in their efforts, according to Ben Conroy, press secretary for Attorney General Jeff Jackson.

Support Small & Local Businesses





Health & Wellness

KFF Presents Poll Showing Healthcare Costs Unify Voters

By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

With affordability emerging as a defining issue ahead of the midterm elections, new polling from KFF shows that health care costs are among voters' greatest economic concerns, surpassing worries about several other major issues.

During a presentation last Thursday, KFF public opinion experts Mollyann Brodie and Liz Hamel examined recent survey findings on health care affordability, voter priorities, trust in political parties, support for Medicare-for-All and enthusiasm heading into the November elections.

Brodie, KFF's executive vice president and chief operating officer, executive director of Public Opinion and Survey Research, and incoming president, opened the event by explaining how public concerns can influence elections, particularly midterms, when voter turnout is typically lower than in presidential election years.

"There are times when an issue can be motivating to a given individual or to a given subset of the population to make them disproportionately likely to turn out to vote," Brodie said.

She pointed to elections following the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, which overturned the constitutional right to abortion, as an example of how a prominent issue can bring different groups of voters to the polls.

Brodie emphasized that the issues dominating public attention also put pressure on candidates to address voters' concerns during campaigns and shape what voters expect from the incoming Congress and administration.

"As we think about this election and then leading into '27, I mean, I think it's almost a given bet that affordability and prices are gonna stay front and center," Brodie said.

Hamel, KFF's senior vice president and director of Public Opinion and Survey Research, presented findings from the organization's national health tracking polls and a joint KFF and Associated Press survey of rural voters. Hamel said the polling consistently identified the cost of living as the leading concern for voters, with health care costs representing a central part of that broader anxiety.

In the September tracking poll, approximately nine in ten voters said it was at least very important for candidates to discuss the cost of living, including 62% who said it was extremely important.

Eight in 10 said it was at least very important for candidates to address health care costs, with nearly half describing the issue as extremely important. These concerns ranked ahead of the conflict in Iran, immigration and abortion policy. Among rural voters, affordability also outweighed issues traditionally important to those communities, such as agriculture, farm policy and gun policy.

The survey also found that health care was one of the expenses Americans were most worried about affording.

Six in ten respondents said they were very or somewhat worried about paying for health care, including one-quarter who said they were very worried. The proportion was comparable to the share concerned about gas and transportation costs and higher than the shares worried about food, utilities and housing.

One notable finding was the degree to which these concerns crossed party lines. Majorities of Democrats, Republicans and independents reported worrying about health care costs, and respondents across all three groups expressed widespread dissatisfaction with the health care system. At least three-quarters of each partisan group said the system needed major changes or required a complete overhaul.

Roughly one-quarter to three in ten voters said they trusted neither party to handle many of the issues included in the survey. Among independents, nearly half said they trusted neither Democrats nor Republicans to address health care costs or the cost of living.

Democrats and independents ranked the cost of living and health care costs at the top of their lists, while Republican voters were most likely to prioritize fraud in government programs, followed by the cost of living. Republicans were also more likely than Democrats and independents to want candidates to discuss immigration.

The presentation also examined

renewed attention to Medicare-for-All, a proposal for a national single-payer health insurance system that has featured prominently in progressive Democratic politics, including during Bernie Sanders' presidential campaigns in 2016 and 2020. After a gap in polling on the issue since 2020, KFF revisited public opinion in September and found that 66% of respondents favored the general idea of a national health plan, while 34% opposed it. The level of support was higher than the roughly 55% typically recorded in KFF's earlier polling on the concept between 2017 and 2020.

However, Hamel cautioned against interpreting it as evidence of broad agreement on a specific health care policy.

Support remained sharply divided along partisan lines: approximately eight in ten Democrats and seven in ten independents favored Medicare-for-All, while a large majority of Republicans opposed it. Hamel also explained that respondents might interpret the proposal differently, with some envisioning a complete restructuring of the U.S. health care system and others imagining an expansion of the existing Medicare program to cover everyone.

Support increased to approximately three-quarters when respondents were told Medicare-for-All would guarantee health insurance as a right for all Americans or eliminate premiums and reduce out-of-pocket costs for most people.

Support declined substantially when respondents heard arguments that the system could cause delays in medical tests and treatments, increase taxes, or threaten the existing Medicare program.

Voter enthusiasm was another significant factor in the presentation, given the importance of turnout in midterm elections. KFF's poll found that approximately six in ten Democratic registered voters said they felt more motivated to vote in the upcoming election than in previous elections, compared with about four in 10 independents and Republicans. The rural voter survey showed a similar pattern: 81% of Democratic rural voters said they were absolutely certain to vote in November, compared with 74% of Republican rural voters.

The rural findings also revealed a potential vulnerability among Republicans dissatisfied with the president's economic performance. Rural Republicans who disapproved of Trump's handling of the economy were 20 percentage points less likely to say they were certain to vote than Republicans who approved of his performance.

The speakers also discussed the potential effect of high-profile health policy debates on public perceptions. Hamel said news coverage of the expiration of enhanced Affordable Care Act premium tax credits, including reports of rising premiums and people potentially losing coverage, may have intensified public anxiety even among people who were not directly affected. Such developments can contribute to broader dissatisfaction with the health care system and reinforce concerns about affordability as voters prepare to cast their ballots.

DURHAM'S HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS

Continued from page 1

Housing For New Hope

Ellie Nobblitt, a member of the National Union of the Homeless in Durham, said sweeps of homeless encampments are violence against poor and homeless people who have nowhere else to go.

"There is no alternative shelter right now for folks," said Nobblitt. "The shelter is not safe."

But Councilwoman Shanetta Burris said critics who insist homeless encampments are being targeted by police are displaying a "level of irresponsibility."

"To my knowledge, that's not what's happening in the city or the community," Burris said.

She said the encampments police raided were drug hubs where she saw "able-bodied people posted in the tent selling poison to their own people."

"I want to know what's dignified about people who look like me who are sleeping in tents on the ground, who have nowhere to bathe, who have nowhere to use a restroom," Burris said.

City Councilman Nate Baker has proposed a new encampment policy that would, among other things, prohibit clearing encampments unless a shelter alternative is available for residents. The policy would also require the city to protect unhoused residents' personal belongings by storing them for a "period of time."

"There are also some detailed and stringent provisions, in cases of emergency, where the city does need to move quickly to protect health and safety," Baker said. "And of course, none of this impacts the other laws that we implement. If there's a fire, you put out the fire. If there's lawbreaking, you can address that."

Baker also noted House Bill 437, which bans unauthorized public camping, establishes penalties for drug offenses near homeless shelters and allows local governments to designate temporary public locations for people experiencing homelessness. HB 437 has been vetoed by Gov. Josh Stein, a Democrat, but the Republican-led General Assembly is expected to pursue a veto override after the November election.

"If the veto is overridden, I don't think that would render this null and void," Baker said. "We would have to change some of the language in order to be more in compliance with that."

Ryan Smith, director of the Durham Community Safety Department, said that there are approximately 1,000 people in Durham experiencing unsheltered homelessness and another 1,000 experiencing other forms of homelessness.

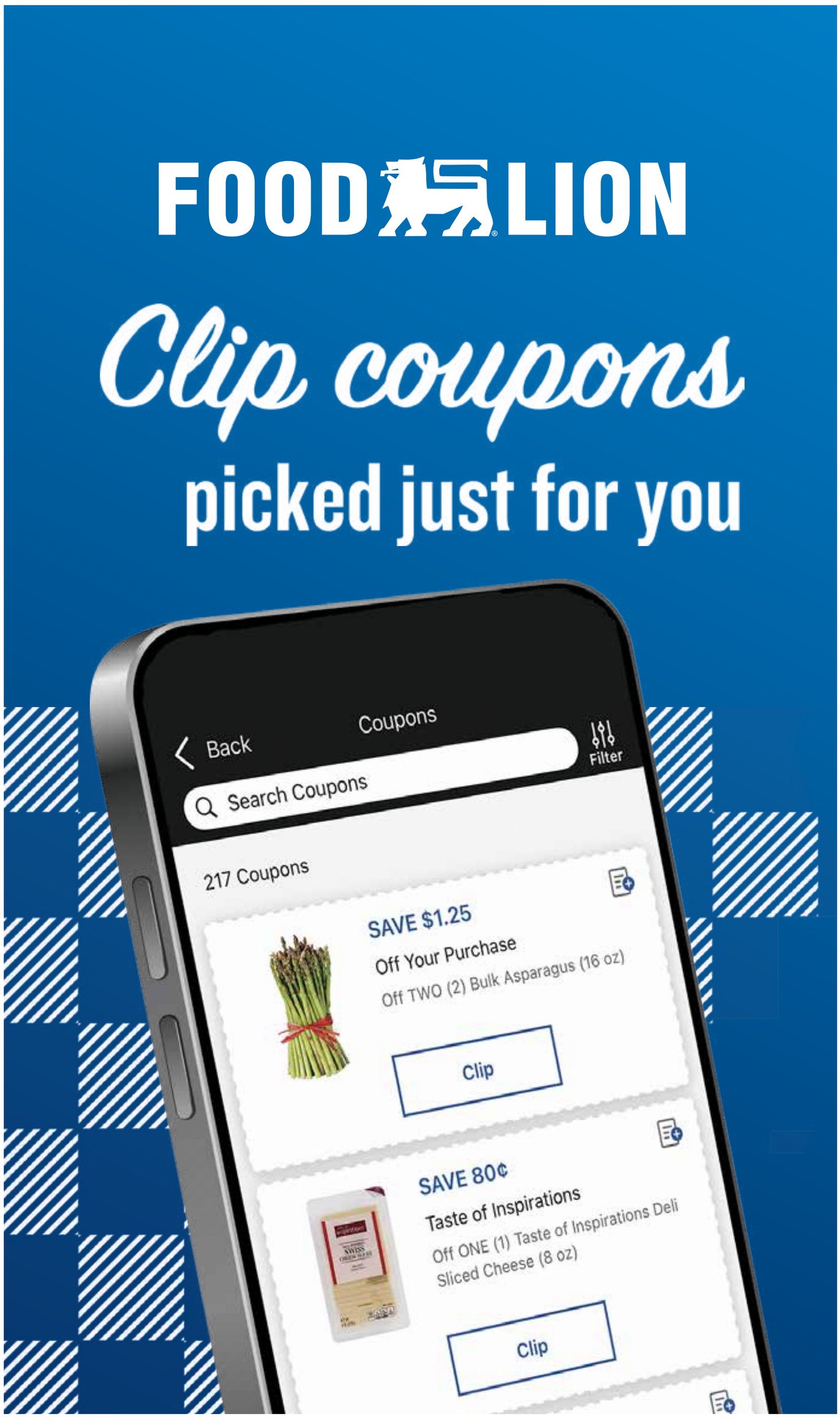
"We currently have a waitlist of nearly 200 people to get into our main shelter for single adults, and another 50 families on a waitlist for our family shelter," Smith said in an email response to questions.

He pointed to the city's new "Strategic Framework to Make Homelessness Rare and Brief" by quickly moving more people into housing through a process known as Housing Sprints.

"Through this process, Durham has housed 104 people, including 50 children," Smith said. "Thirty-eight people were housed through two August sprints alone, including 25 members of nine families."

The city's goal is to "build a system that is both robust enough and nimble enough to house anybody experiencing homelessness in Durham within 30 days," Smith said.

"That goal is still at least five years away, but successes over these past six months give us confidence that it is a horizon we can reach," he said.



Arts & Culture

'Shakespeare Was A Black Woman': The Playwright's Under-Recognized Connection To The Black Culture

THE GUARDIAN - "William Shakespeare was a black woman." In 1985, Maya Angelou spoke these words as part of a keynote speech at a convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

There, she spoke of the role poetry played in her transition from muteness as a child and how she fantasized herself triumphantly delivering Portia's speech from William Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice in front of her entire community at church. Though she never got the chance to perform that rendition, Angelou acknowledged her desire to deliver that rendition as part of a lifelong kinship with Shakespeare, a connection she continued to seek out throughout her life whenever she needed heartening or solace. In her eyes, Shakespeare wrote his emotionally desolate Sonnet 29 "for" her; how else could he have so aptly described the harsh realities of the Black feminine condition?

"Of course he wrote it for me," Angelou declared. "Of course, he was a Black woman. I understand that. Nobody else understands it, but I know that William Shakespeare was a Black woman."

Angelou would likely be proud to know that many other Black women – including Dr Patricia Akhimie, the director of the Folger Institute at the

Metropolitan Opera Archive

Folger Shakespeare Library

Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington DC – do understand. The Bard may not have been a Black woman in the literal sense, but his resonance and centuries-long rapport with Black culture is one area of study that Akhimie has spent her career examining.

In the Folger's newest exhibition To Hear Her Speak: Black Women and Shakespeare, curated by Akhimie, more than 400 years of Black women's engagement with Shakespeare is collectively explored for the first time, illuminating the ways in which Black women have claimed and reimagined the works of Shakespeare through scholarship and craft. "It's a performance [and theater] history but it's also an intellectual history about Black women as writers and artists pulling from Shakespeare to do new and amazing things," said Akhimie, speaking in a warm conversation in early October.

The history of Black women's connection to Shakespeare is long, but not necessarily storied – To Hear Her Speak reveals just how far back that history goes and under how many layers it's hidden. There's likely no better place to begin such an investigation than at the Folger, home of the world's largest Shakespeare collection.

The exhibit, which is the product of more than two years of research, is both immersive and interactive. It contains nearly 100 items including photographs, playbills, books, diaries, illustrations and costumes; there are video displays of notable Black actresses throughout history performing Shakespeare; and within a set replica of playwright Lorraine Hansberry's living room (based on a 1959 Vogue photo spread of the writer in her New York City apartment), visitors can sit on the couch and watch a television set screening clips of Hansberry and other Black women discussing Shakespeare, or browse through the "library" of that same living room set, where there are shelves of books that serve as a mini-archive of writing related to Shakespeare and Black women's artistic and intellectual endeavors.

To Hear Her Speak also invites visitors to become participants through other immersive aspects such as writing activities throughout, its exhibit-themed playlist (hitting shuffle will play tracks from Aretha Franklin, Lauryn Hill, Billie Holliday, SZA and more), and its audioguide narrated by Bridgerton star, Shakespearean actor and exhibition chair Adjoa Andoh. The exhibition was designed to be a three-dimensional, multi-sensory experience that can appeal to all ages and its full-color exhibit catalog, created by the To Hear Her Speak research team, was intentionally made for both print and digital consumption for wide accessibility.

"It's not about standing back and looking at something behind glass, but rather about what happens when inspiration strikes, and then you become the maker and the thinker and the dreamer," said Akhimie.

To Hear Her Speak also builds on new research showing that Black women were very much a presence in Shakespeare's world while also illustrating how they were represented (and misrepresented) by storytellers of the era, across different mediums. Part of Akhimie's aim was to challenge that erasure. "[The exhibition's story] starts with debunking a longstanding myth, which is that the London where [Shakespeare] lived and wrote his plays and where they were first performed was not a diverse place, when it really was," Akhimie said.

Along with her research team, Akhimie quickly discovered that artefacts and records of Black women's engagement with Shakespeare disappeared around the 18th and 19th centuries. "The obvious reason for that is because that is the time period that coincides with the height of the transatlantic slave trade, when Black women's experiences are not being documented and preserved, and their humanity is being obscured," said Akhimie. This time period is arguably one of the most crucial for the exhibition's narrative, as the 18th and 19th centuries are when the transatlantic slave trade is concurrent with Shakespeare's rise as an international figure representative of British culture and culture at large.

Honoring Lifelong Service: Governor Josh Stein Confers The Order of the Long Leaf Pine at Civil Rights Museum

By Jheri Hardaway
Staff Writer

Greenboro, NC — Against the historic backdrop of the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in downtown Greensboro, Governor Josh Stein gathered with civic leaders, families, and advocates on Wednesday, October 14th, to induct a distinguished slate of North Carolinians into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Conferred by the governor, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine stands as North Carolina's most prestigious civilian honor, awarded to individuals who have demonstrated an extraordinary record of sustained, exemplary service and dedication to the state and their communities.

Holding the ceremony within the hallowed civil rights landmark, home of the historic 1960 Woolworth's lunch counter sit-ins, underscored the deep public service and pursuit of equity embodied by this year's 15 honorees. "North Carolina is home to some truly incredible people," Gov. Stein told the gathering, commending the cohort for dedicating their lives to education, public health, environmental justice, the judiciary, and public safety.

The presentations recognized several leaders who have spent decades dismantling barriers and expanding opportunity across the Piedmont and beyond:

Deena Hayes-Green: A Guilford County native and lifelong education advocate, Hayes-Green has served on the Guilford County Board of Education since 2002. Throughout more than two decades of board service, she has been a tireless champion for teacher compensation, student safety, and narrowing racial achievement and opportunity gaps. Beyond the classroom, she co-founded the Racial Equity Institute to advance racial justice nationally and established Black Wall Street LLC to expand access to capital in urban centers.

Dr. Laura Gerald: Honored for her pioneering career in public health, Dr. Gerald was lauded by Gov. Stein for her unwavering commitment to breaking down systemic health disparities, leading efforts through major health foundations and trust funds to expand healthcare access to underserved North Carolinians across the state.

Paula Rakestraw: Starting as a parent volunteer in the Rockingham County Schools, Rakestraw transformed her passion into lasting institutional support. After working as an early childhood educator and business owner, she founded and led the Rockingham County Partnership for Children, directing vital Smart Start investments, and continues her public leadership on the Rockingham County Board of Education.

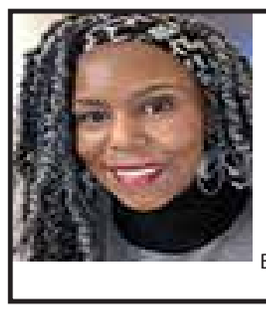
Stephen Lee: Celebrating a milestone 30-year teaching career in Guilford County Schools, Lee was among the founding educators when Northern Guilford Middle School opened its doors two decades ago. As a career and technical education (CTE) instructor skilled in 3D printing and industrial design, Lee opened students' eyes to engineering, technology, and aviation while anchoring the school community through his presence at athletic events and school concerts.

State and national governance were well-represented among the inductees, highlighted by transformational milestones in clean water and municipal leadership:

Michael S. Regan: A Goldsboro native and graduate of North Carolina A&T State University, Regan was honored for his visionary environmental leadership. Prior to serving as the first Black administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under President Joe Biden, Regan led the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality under Gov. Roy Cooper. In that role, he pioneered state clean energy standards, spearheaded the historic Duke Energy coal ash settlement, and launched urgent initiatives addressing PFAS "forever chemicals" in drinking water.

Mayor Allen Joines: Currently the longest-serving mayor in Winston-

(See *LONG LEAF PINE* P. 9)



THE GOLDEN YEARS

By Judykay Jefferson

NEVER TOO OLD

I have been studying the Korean language since the middle of summer. On Sunday, I have a final exam for this "term." I study using multiple apps and an actual online class. I spend much of my day practicing my writing and pronunciation. I have been to a lot of classes at multiple schools and can honestly say I have NEVER studied like this!

If I had applied this same determination into previous educational pursuits, I could have multiple terminal degrees. Don't ask me why but suddenly, at age 73, I am intensely committed to learning to speak, read, and write the Korean language. Perhaps the difference isn't the subject matter. Perhaps, I'm finally able to settle down and focus because the world around me just doesn't capture my attention like it used to. Aging does have its benefits.

I may have said this before, but I believe our generation's moniker, Baby Boomers, is a misnomer. The Peter Pan generation is a much more descriptively accurate name for us. Thanks to the technological changes of the second half of the twentieth and beginning of the twenty-first centuries, life isn't wearing us out physically like our predecessors. Pictures of my 1970 high school graduating class prove that we're definitely aging more gracefully. In our seventies, many of us are still watching what we eat, exercising, pursuing new adventures, hookin'-up. We are doing most everything but slowing down. As members of the Life-Long Learning Club, we're still trying new things, pushing our old brains to expand and create. Like Peter Pan, I don't believe we will ever think of ourselves as old. And yet, we are.

I'm aware of my advanced age when I see young and middle-aged women dressed in what is now referred to as "body conscious" clothing. Mother would have said it was too tight and too short. I consciously resist the urge to make that disapproving monosyllabic sound that says, "I know your mother taught you better than to be out in public like that." I have to remind myself that that admonition doesn't work in many cases when the offender's mother is twinning her. I'm sure you see this affront to decency just like I do. My own child at 30 years old is partial to revealing clothing from which she is gushing out the top and the bottom. Don't get me wrong, I'm not suggesting a return to the oversized clothing of the 1980s and 1990s. Nor am I body-shaming. Trust me, I'm in no position to shame anyone for anything. Nor am I a prude however, there are body parts I just don't need to see in the grocery store.

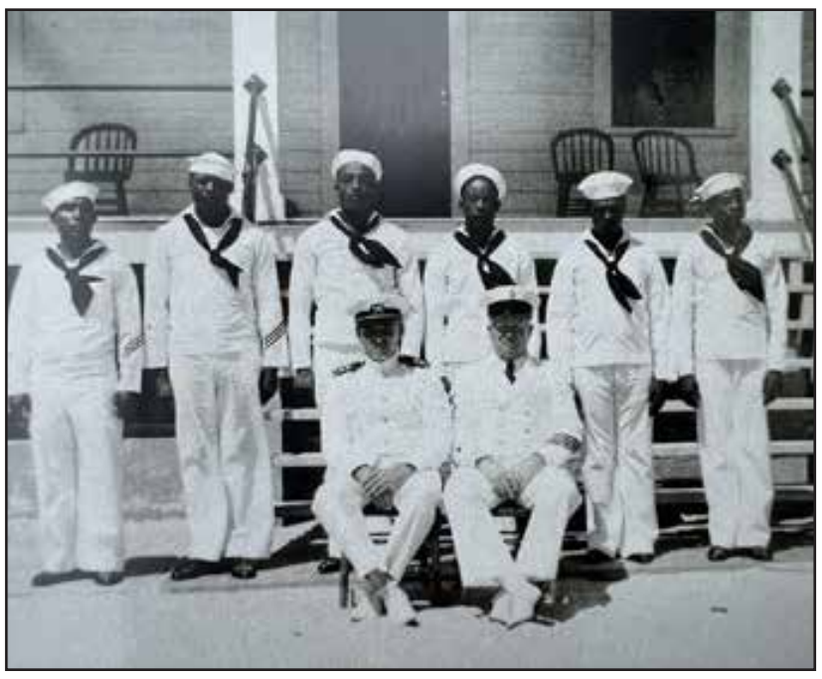
I realize that each generation pushes the envelope. We certainly did with mini-dresses and hot pants. And let's not talk about neon-colored spandex. Or even high fashion of nothing other than body paint. And these trends are not exclusive to women. The prevalence of sagging pants popularized by hip-hop culture was the driving force for many schools to adopt uniforms. The more I write, the more I recognize that there may be a much deeper human drive moving us to be as close to naked as possible.

I am not an end-time Christian however, I am beginning to see what perhaps is a pattern of pushing the standards of acceptable decency in what could be a slow slide to a reset; a second chance in the Garden of Eden. Subconsciously, are we saying let's give nudity another shot? Theologians, relax. I'm just trying to make it make sense.

Or maybe I'm just old.

The First All-Black U.S. Lifesaving Crew

By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer



The Pea Island Lifesaving Station was the first in the United States to be commanded by a Black keeper and staffed by an all-Black crew. Located along a stretch of coastline known as the "Graveyard of the Atlantic" because of its dangerous waters and numerous shipwrecks, the station became a significant part of North Carolina's maritime history.

At the center of that history was Richard Etheridge, who was born into slavery in January 1842 on the Outer Banks. Although North Carolina law made it illegal the teach enslaved people the read and write, Etheridge learned both skills. Like many residents of the Outer Banks, he also developed an early familiarity with the sea, working in fishing, boat piloting, and other maritime activities.

The Civil War changed the course of Etheridge's life.

After Union forces arrived in the Outer Banks in 1862, Roanoke Island became a refuge for people escaping slavery. Black men began enlisting in the Union military, and Etheridge joined Company F of the 36th United States Colored Infantry in August 1863.

The regiment served in North Carolina and Virginia and participated in the Battle of New Market Heights in September 1864, a significant Union victory in which Black troops distinguished themselves. Etheridge was promoted to sergeant two days after the battle.

In 1865, Etheridge and fellow soldier William Benson wrote to Union military authorities to protest the mistreatment of Black families on Roanoke Island by occupying troops. Their letter described theft and abuse and asked officials to intervene. Etheridge signed the appeal on behalf of humanity, documenting concerns about the safety and treatment of Black residents even while he was serving in the Union Army.

After leaving military service in 1866, Etheridge returned to the Outer Banks, married, and worked as a fisherman before joining the federal Life-Saving Service. He served at Oregon Inlet and Bodie Island before being appointed keeper of the Pea Island station in 1880. Etheridge, then an experienced surfman, was selected to lead the station because of his ability, experience, and knowledge of the coast.

Etheridge became the first Black man to serve as keeper of a U.S. lifesaving station. White surfmen assigned to Pea Island reportedly refused to serve under his leadership, resulting in a station staffed entirely by Black men. Etheridge recruited local Black men, including fellow military veterans, and trained them in the demanding work of maritime rescue.

About five months after Etheridge assumed command, a fire destroyed the station building. Arson was suspected, although responsibility was never established. The station was rebuilt, and Etheridge established a strict training and operational routine. Under his leadership, the crew developed a reputation for discipline and effectiveness, rescuing more than 200 people from nearly 20 shipwrecks, according to historical accounts.

(See *LIFESAVING CREW* P. 7)

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Community

A Legacy of Service, A Future of Hope: North Carolina Juvenile Services Association Commemorates 60 Years

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Greensboro, NC — When the North Carolina Juvenile Services Association (NCJSA) first organized in 1966, juvenile rehabilitation was largely indistinguishable from adult correction. Young offenders were often held in adult facilities, supervised by adult parole officers, and met with rigid punitive measures rather than developmental care. Six decades later, hundreds of frontline practitioners, community advocates, and statewide leaders gathered at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro from October 14–16, 2026, to celebrate sixty years of groundbreaking advocacy, service, and youth empowerment under the banner: "A Legacy of Service, A Future of Hope."

The three-day diamond anniversary conference reflected both the historic evolution of juvenile justice across North Carolina and the urgent, modern challenges we face today. From youth mental health and social media exploitation to adult court transfer laws and systemic racial disparities, this important conference created a safe space for essential conversations.

Opening the historical retrospective, longtime leaders Pamela Stokes, Eastern Area Manager for the N.C. Department of Public Safety (NCDPS) Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP), and Johnny Wilson, President and CEO of Fayetteville Urban Ministry, walked attendees through the timeline of change.

Stokes detailed how juvenile justice advocates broke away from the adult probation system in 1966 to build specialized juvenile training, establish community youth homes, and eliminate the warehouse penal approach for minors. By 1997, NCJSA formally received its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, continually expanding its network from court counselors to include clinicians, educators, and grassroots diversion specialists. "Rather than a single founding figure, the NCJSA was a group of dedicated people who collectively formed together to ask: What are we going to do to help our children?" Stokes noted, emphasizing that early pioneers recognized children needed rehabilitation, family support, and genuine guidance rather than adult incarceration.

The dialogue throughout the opening sessions remained uncompromisingly honest. Johnny Wilson challenged the room to recognize that what society often labels as "badness" in a child is frequently untreated trauma. Wilson, drawing on decades of community intervention, urged attendees to confront the blind spots in youth service, "Who is mentoring your child when the adults aren't looking? Mentorship is repetition and consistent relationship. When one child is impacted by the justice system, the entire family is impacted. We have to be the voice for the voiceless and hope for the hopeless."

Wilson pointed out that while nearly two-thirds of high school students report having an adult at school they can talk to, too many youth still feel unsafe at home and in their communities, leading them toward risky street influences and firearm possession as a misguided shield. He stressed that authentic diversion must bridge safety, accountability, and development before a child ever reaches a courtroom desk.

This protective sentiment was further echoed in a critical digital safety session on internet crimes against children. Law enforcement presenters highlighted the explosion of digital exploitation, online grooming, extortion, and non-consensual artificial intelligence imagery targeting minors, noting a 1,000% statewide increase in related investigations since 2019. Law enforcement and

child protection experts urged workers to act swiftly in preserving evidence, report via the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children via MissingKids.org, CyberTipline, and the SBI, and remember above all else: "The child is the victim, not the offender."

Another powerful keynote on policy and data briefing by Deputy Secretary William "Billy" Lassiter of the NCDPS Division of Juvenile Justice shared vital metrics shaping the state's current juvenile justice landscape, alongside a recorded welcome address from Governor Josh Stein. Lassiter delivered welcome news: overall juvenile crime complaints across North Carolina experienced a significant decline over the past year—marking nearly 2,000 fewer youth entering the system. However, Lassiter and state analysts pointed to complex systemic dynamics beneath the topline numbers: There has been disproportionate minority contact. Deep racial disparities persist across North Carolina's system. While African American youth make up approximately 21% of the state's juvenile population, they accounted for over 21,000 of the complaints filed last year, compared to roughly 8,000 for white youth. Lassiter emphasized that disparities are most severe at the system's entry and exit points (referrals and secure detention), urging practitioners and lawmakers to directly address these inequities with targeted community resources.

A major concern is the adult transfer burden. Following the implementation of recent statutory changes, including House Bill 834, which directs 16- and 17-year-olds facing Class A through E felonies into adult court, juvenile detention centers are increasingly filled with adult-transferred youth awaiting trial. Lassiter reported that these youths now make up 60% to 70% of daily detention beds, with an average length of stay reaching 276 days, compared to just 25 days for youth under juvenile jurisdiction. Strikingly, approximately 60% of transferred homicide/murder charges against juveniles are eventually dismissed due to accessory or bystander involvement rather than principal culpability.

As we know as a community, there are intensive mental health needs. More than 99% of youth held in Youth Development Centers (YDCs) have at least one mental health diagnosis, averaging nearly five distinct diagnoses per child. In response, NCDPS recently broke ground on a specialized, 10-bed juvenile crisis unit in partnership with New Hope Treatment Centers, set to open on November 1 to provide intensive stabilization and eliminate long, draining emergency room waits.

Finally, Lassiter highlighted North Carolina's upcoming $451 million settlement from Meta, structured in $45 million annual distributions over nine years, intended to curb screen addiction, fund crisis lines like 988, and expand outdoor and community-based Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) programs.

Celebration was central to the diamond anniversary and the overall mood of the conference. Despite such a serious subject matter, there was also a solid focus on fun and celebration. The association paid tribute to its founding and lifetime members, including pioneers like Jane Steinberg, Renee Walker, and Judy Juliet, whose early service paved the path for today's statewide continuum.

NCJSA presented several prestigious awards. In a special tribute, the NCJSA Board and Fayetteville Urban Ministry surprised Johnny Wilson with lifetime honors for his steadfast leadership, faith-driven advocacy, and deep commitment to North Carolina's children and families since joining the association in 2006.

The conference closed with a resounding call to sustain both youth and the professionals who care for them. Keynote reflections framed the transition from mere bureaucratic compliance to genuine human connection, urging attendees to practice self-care and mutual support. Using the metaphor of an airplane's oxygen mask, speakers reminded caseworkers, court counselors, and facility staff not to leave their own oxygen masks on the floor while rushing to save others, "We cannot serve our children and families effectively if we are operating on empty. To reach year 61 and beyond, we must see each other, celebrate our small victories, heal our own spirits, and remember our 'why.'"

As attendees stood with linked arms across the ballroom, the message of NCJSA's 60th anniversary was unmistakable: the past six decades prove that prevention, compassion, and community-centered intervention work. For North Carolina's youth, the next sixty years will depend on sustaining the people and programs who refuse to give up on their promise.

U.S. Lifesaving Crew — *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6*

One of the crew's most notable rescues occurred on the night of Oct. 11, 1896, when the E.S. Newman ran aground during a hurricane. The vessel's captain, his wife, and their 3-year-old son were among those aboard.

The Pea Island crew transported rescue equipment to the wreck site, where enormous waves prevented conventional rescue methods. Two of the crew's strongest swimmers entered the turbulent water and made their way to the schooner with a line. Using the line, the lifesavers repeatedly entered the water to bring those aboard to safety. The rescue continued until all nine people aboard, including the captain's wife and young son, had been brought ashore.

Despite the significance of the E.S. Newman rescue, Etheridge and his crew did not receive the national recognition later associated with their achievement during their lifetimes. Etheridge served as keeper for approximately 20 years before becoming ill and dying at the station in January 1900, at age 58.

His death did not end the station's role in maritime rescue. Black keepers and crew members continued serving at Pea Island for decades, maintaining its distinction as the nation's only lifesaving station staffed entirely by Black personnel.

Among the keepers who followed Etheridge were Benjamin Bowser, Lewis Wescott, William Irving, George Pruden, and Maxie Berry Sr. The station remained in operation through World War II before being decommissioned in 1947, as the federal lifesaving system evolved into the modern U.S. Coast Guard.

Recognition of the crew's achievements came much later. In 1996, the U.S. Coast Guard posthumously awarded Etheridge and his crew the Gold Lifesaving Medal for the E.S. Newman rescue. The award brought national attention to an operation that had demonstrated exceptional courage a century earlier.

Etheridge and members of his family are memorialized on the grounds of the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island, and a life-size statue of Etheridge stands in a traffic circle in Manteo. The legacy has also been recognized by the Coast Guard through the naming of a vessel in Etheridge's honor.

Another effort to preserve the history is the Pea Island Cookhouse Museum in Manteo. Opened in 2008 following renovations to the historic cookhouse, the museum commemorates Etheridge, his crew and the Black lifesavers who served at the station. Its collection includes the E.S. Newman signboard, a Lyle gun used in lifesaving operations, photographs, artifacts, memorabilia and historical records documenting the station and its personnel.

Beta Lambda Sigma Philos Champion Youth Success at Walnut Creek Elementary

RALEIGH, NC – In a powerful display of community commitment, the Beta Lambda Sigma Philo Affiliate of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. visited Walnut Creek Elementary School this week to bolster the school's "Backpack Buddy" initiative. The donation event marked a significant milestone in the affiliate's ongoing efforts to support local youth and address food insecurity within the school system.

The Philos arrived with a caravan of supplies, delivering 500 bags of chips, 300 juice boxes, and 25 high-quality bookbags. These items are designated for the Backpack Buddy program, which provides students from food-insecure households with nutritious, easy-to-prepare food to take home over weekends and school breaks when school meals are unavailable.

"Service is the heart of our organization. Seeing the direct impact these supplies will have on the students at Walnut Creek is exactly why the Philo Affiliate exists," stated a representative for the group.

Impact on the "Backpack Buddy" Initiative

The Backpack Buddy program relies heavily on community donations to sustain its reach. The addition of 500 snacks and 300 drinks ensures that the program can maintain its service levels through the coming months, while the 25 new bookbags provide essential tools for students to carry their schoolwork and food supplies with dignity.

Walnut Creek Elementary administrators expressed deep gratitude for the donation, noting that such contributions are vital to the holistic success of their students. "When a child's basic needs are met, they are better equipped to focus, learn, and excel in the classroom," said one school official.

Sports

Steve Worthy Photos

Virginia State Dominates Shaw 76-13 Behind Explosive Second-Quarter

DURHAM, N.C. – Virginia State University delivered a commanding performance against Shaw University on Saturday, October 17, defeating the Bears 76-13 in a Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) football matchup. A devastating 35-0 scoring run in the second quarter helped Virginia State take control of the contest, leaving Shaw struggling to regain momentum.

Shaw showed flashes of offensive potential early in the game, highlighted by a long touchdown reception from wide receiver Reggie King Jr. (2). King celebrated the score alongside teammate Ashton Williams (54), giving the Bears an early offensive highlight despite the eventual lopsided outcome.

Wide receiver Floyd Lyles (3) also contributed to Shaw's offensive efforts, securing a first-down reception while being defended by Virginia State cornerback Jamontae Dance-Anderson (24). However, the Bears struggled to sustain drives as Virginia State's defense and special teams continued to create problems.

Virginia State's offense proved difficult to contain, with quarterback Rashaan Matthews Jr. (2) extending plays with his legs and picking up a first down against the Shaw defense. Running back TJ Mordecai (21) added to the Trojans' physical offensive attack, delivering a powerful stiff-arm against Shaw linebacker Quadir McEachin (5) during a first-half run.

The Trojans also found success through the air. Wide receiver Kevin Gayles (0) made a first-down reception against Shaw defensive backs Sean McFadden (12) and Antonio Hardge (34). Later in the first half, Gayles hauled in a touchdown reception against Shaw cornerback Antonio Cotman (2), adding to Virginia State's growing lead.

Special teams difficulties further complicated matters for the Bears. Virginia State's Ian Wynn (18) blocked a punt attempt by Shaw punter Jethro Ommam (84) during the first half, providing another example of the Trojans' ability to disrupt Shaw's game plan.

The defining stretch came in the second quarter, when Virginia State erupted for 35 unanswered points. The scoring surge created a deficit Shaw could not overcome and demonstrated the Trojans' ability to capitalize on opportunities on both sides of the ball.

Despite individual efforts from King, Lyles and several defensive players, Shaw was unable to slow Virginia State's offensive production. The Trojans continued to build their advantage, ultimately securing a decisive 76-13 victory.

The loss highlighted the challenges facing Shaw as the Bears continue their CIAA schedule, particularly in limiting explosive plays, protecting the football on special teams and maintaining offensive consistency.

For Virginia State, the victory showcased an explosive offensive attack and a defense capable of disrupting opposing teams, reinforcing the Trojans' competitive presence in CIAA football.

NCCU Tennis Program Earns 2026 USTA-NC Honor

North Carolina Central University's Tennis Program (NCCU) received the 2026 United States Tennis Association-NC Member Organization of the Year Award. Each year this award is presented to a tennis organization that has made notable contributions in support of tennis in North Carolina. NCCU was recognized for its diverse partnership with local Community Tennis Associations, strong support of USTA league play and their willingness to allow their courts to be used by the general public. NCCU Director of Tennis, Curtis D. Lawson said that he was incredibly honored to receive such a distinct honor from the USTA. The NCCU Tennis courts have also been recognized as one of the first USTA/ITA Collegiate Community Hubs in the country, and one of a select few universities to receive the US Open Legacy Grant, which honors the 2023 US Open Champion, Coco Gauff. Curtis D. Lawson is an active member of the Durham Beta Phi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

3 Members of Kappa Alpha Psi Included In Hall of Fame

Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School held their inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony . This historic occasion recognized individuals whose dedication, leadership, athletic achievements, and commitment to student development that help shaped the legacy of the schools athletics. Among the honorees were three members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. The honorees represent different generations of achievement and service:

The late Brother John W. Modest, Jr. — Fall 1983 initiate of the Boston (MA) Alumni Chapter. Entered Chapter Invisible on February 25, 2016.

Brother William A. Powell — Fall 1997 initiate of the Smithfield (NC) Alumni Chapter and current Polemarch of the Raleigh (NC) Alumni Chapter.

Brother Ronnie Taylor — Spring 2002 initiate of the UNC Greensboro Chapter the Mu Iota of Kappa Alpha Psi.

Together, their stories illustrate the lasting influence of educators, athletic leaders, coaches, and former student-athletes who helped build Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School's tradition of excellence.

Read full story online at www.CARO.news

Church

Obituaries

PEGGY IRENE BAILEY DEAVER

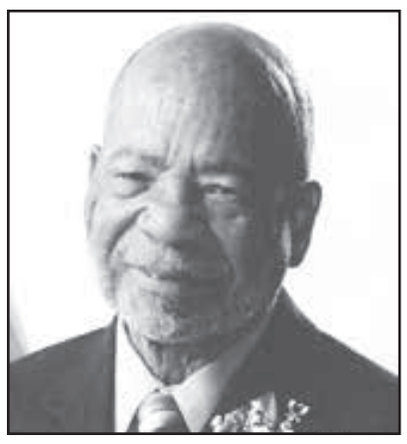
Peggy Irene Bailey Deaver, affectionately known as "Lil Sister," peacefully departed this life on September 21, 2026. Born on January 13, 1948, in New port News, Virginia, to the late Joseph Bailey and Helen gill. She as preceded in death by her siblings Patricia Turner, Jimmie Gill, and Joseph "Mack" Bailey.

Peggy's foundational years began at Washington Elementary and continued through Ligon High School, culminating in her graduation from Garner High School. She balanced the joys of motherhood while beginning her working career at Ernest Myatt Daycare in Garner, NC. Her passion for guiding children led her to Wake Co. Public School System where she worked as a Teacher's Assistant for 30 years. During this time, she also worked at William Peace College, leaving a lasting impact on countless students.

To Peggy there weren't any strangers in the world, only friends she hadn't met yet. She possessed a vibrant love of shopping, rarely leaving a store without making a new friend and getting their phone number to keep in touch. Her warmth extended into the kitchen. A phenomenal cook, her famous pound cake was a beloved staple at family gatherings.

Her beautiful memory will forever be cherished lovingly by her husband, Wendell Deaver; daughters, Andrea Jones, Anita Deaver, and Crystal Deaver-Francis; cherished grandchildren, Courtney Limerick, Aaron Deaver, and Aaliyah Deaver; along with two great-grandchildren. She leaves behind her sister, Grace Fort, and her brothers, Dr. Tyrone Bailey of Richmond, VA and Marvin Baily (Mamie) of Delaware. Her legacy of love and kindness extends to goddaughters, Lashonda Jones-Alves of Raleigh, Tiesha Kennedy of Simmesport, Louisiana, and Jackie Mason of Baltimore, Maryland.

WINSTON MCCULLERS III



Winston McCullers III was born on January 11, 1947, in Raleigh, NC to the late Winston McCullers Jr. and Josephine Bryant McCullers. He entered eternal rest on October 6, 2026.

Winston, affectionately known to many as "Sugarfoot", attended J.W. Ligon High School in Raleigh, where he was a member of the marching band, and played the trumpet. During his high school years, he worked with Lightner Funeral Home, assisting with emergency services at football games.

After high school, Winston honorably served in the US Army from 1965 to 1968. He also completed paratrooper at Fort Benning, Georgia.

During his military service, he received several honors and decorations, including the National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Sharpshooter Badge, and Purple Heart.

Winston always demonstrated a strong work ethic. After completing his military service, he worked as an emergency medical technician in South Carolina, Mt. Airy, and Winston-Salem, NC. He as later employed in management at Johnson Controls. In the final years of his career, he worked at the US Postal Service Processing and Distribution Center, where he retired as a supervisor. He was remembered as a fair, helpful, and effective leader.

Although Winston was a man of few words, he was fun to be around. He was a jokester, a sharp dresser, a good dancer, and a master of the grill, known for cooking the best steaks. Winston loved cares, and if you knew him, you knew is truck was always clean, sporting 26-inch rims. One of his favorite pastimes was driving racecars.

Winston could often be fund spending long hours caring for his lawn, which was a source of pride. He as well liked in the community and known by all his neighbors. Always willing to lend a helping hand, Winston was a true jack-of-all-trades. He maintained close friendships with his racing and military buddies and especially enjoyed his Wednesday morning breakfast outings with fellow veterans. He would often tell his wife, "Don't make your doctor's appointments on Wednesday if you need me to take you." His daughters always held a special place in his heart, and they could get away with just about anything.

Winston was preceded in death by his sisters, Shirley Webster and Glorias Lee.

A Different Voice

By Dorothy Shaw Thompson

THIS IS IT FOR NC

This is it for North Carolina. I'm pleased to say I'm still here and may even make it to my 80th birthday on Wednesday. I know. But I don't take it for granted because, though I am purposed to be here, I'm not sure when the time is up and I've completed my assignment. Also, I've been to enough funerals to know that age doesn't give a clue to the date of departure. Speaking of funerals, Sugarfoot had a really inspiring one on Saturday. The music was excellent. My classmate Gloria Murray sang "I'm Too Close to the Mirror," and Brenda Judd did an excellent job. I'm a crybaby, not because I'm sad, but because I could feel the Spirit of God with us in that place. The song, the eulogy, the pastor of the church who stepped aside and allowed another to preach, the scriptures, they were all on point. Sugarfoot had led an inspirational life.

Yet we are still here, and so is early voting. I'm so impressed with the students at A&T who walked two miles to the polls, along with those who joined them from Bennett College and UNC Greensboro. They have freedom, energy and determination in their minds, bodies and behavior, and the fact that they had to walk to vote because there was no voting site on campus didn't deter them. It's the work in them of, "No weapon formed against me shall prosper." I hope what they've done will be a model for others. Just as the sit-ins started there and spread, may God bless them all.

We have early voting, Souls to the Polls, Sunday voting, until October 31, and then there is November 3. Make sure you vote, not just because of those who died because they had to fight for the right that was always theirs, but because we've lived through almost two years of wrongdoing and evil thinking. I'm not in any way weary of telling you to vote blue, Democrat, because even those who may see how wrong Trump is still vote with his favor in mind. What we all do in the next 15 days matters to Medicare, healthcare, education and so much more. As Senator and Rev. Warnock says, our voting is a prayer for how we want to live in this country. If we want people to eat food that nourishes them, if we want those who are homeless to have housing, and if we want to follow the true teachings of Jesus, we'll vote for those who will represent those goals in our government, federal, state, county and city.

If you ask me, I'll tell you who I'm voting for without feeling that I shouldn't. I've lived long enough to know that we can be tricked by what people call "Christian values," yet if they read the whole Bible, it will tell them that they are deluded. I watched a reel on Facebook from former candidate for governor Mark Robinson, and he talked about the Christ in him that wants to put immigrants out of this country and accused the Democrats of misusing money to our detriment. And I wondered if he has ever read where Jesus instructs us to befriend the immigrant, feed the poor and teach who God is by treating others as we want to be treated.

We have enough money in this country to do good. It's time to stand up and vote against what we believe is wrong. This is our time to matter.

North Carolina voters, vote.

Raleigh Church Honors Former Pastor And Community Leader

By Eric Curry

Contributor

One of Raleigh's oldest serving African-American churches recently recognized one of the church's former pastors by renaming one of its buildings with his name.

Members of Martin Street Baptist Church recently held a ceremony honoring the church's Pastor Emeritus, Dr. Charles T. Bullock, by officially renaming the church's Family Life Center which was constructed during his tenure.

Dr. Bullock was joined by his family, friends and clergy from across North Carolina to celebrate the honor. Bullock, a native of Granville County, served as Senior Pastor of Martin Street Baptist Church for 17 years, before retiring.

Prior to serving as pastor at Martin Street, Dr. Bullock served as pastor at St. James Missionary Baptist Church for almost two decades, and also served as President of the General State Baptist Convention of North Carolina.

In reflecting on receiving the honor, Dr. Bullock shared that renaming the building is just a small part of God's plan.

"This Family Center is not about me, it's about God's love and mercy. It's about nurturing families and getting them an opportunity to be a part of the ministry of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," said Dr. Bullock.

The Family Life Center officially opened in 2007, and continues to be a valuable center for community engagement.

St. Ambrose Episcopal Celebrates 60 Years In Rochester Heights

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Raleigh, NC — In a soul-stirring atmosphere saturated with jazz, deep ancestral memory, and holy celebration, St. Ambrose Episcopal Church celebrated a year-long jubilee on Sunday, October 18th, marking sixty years on Darby Street in Southeast Raleigh's historic Rochester Heights community. The landmark milestone brought together a rich, multigenerational congregation alongside the Right Reverend Michael B. Curry, the XXVII Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, who served as celebrant and preacher.

Founded in the wake of the Civil War on February 11, 1868, as a ministry to newly emancipated African Americans connected to Saint Augustine's Normal School, St. Ambrose has persevered through more than 158 years of institutional life. The parish's sacred journey took it from a Carpenter Gothic chapel rolled literally down the street on logs at the turn of the 20th century to its consecration on Darby Street in October 1965.

Sunday's service was defined by powerful liturgical and cultural expression, anchored by the North Carolina Central University Jazz Ensemble. The service music paid tribute to legendary composer, pianist, and sacred jazz trailblazer Mary Lou Williams, incorporating movements from her groundbreaking 1970 Mary Lou's Mass alongside her 1964 Pittsburgh Mass.

The celebration carried a long tradition of musical and liturgical pioneering at St. Ambrose: from the 1920s compositions of the Rev. Arthur Myron Cochran, who set the historic Cochran Mass to Negro Spirituals, to the parish's late-1990s introduction of the Jazz Mass under former rector the Rev. Dr. Michael J. Battle. Clergy and church leaders marched in vibrant vestments and under Ethiopian ceremonial umbrellas, lifting up ancient African Christian heritage in harmony with contemporary rhythm.

There was a dedication of new altar hangings; the green altar vestments have the Ethiopian Lalibela cross design. Queen Masqal Kiora, the 12th-century Ethiopian queen, designed the cross and used it to bless people. Queen Masgal functioned as a priest. The design shows a central cross encircled by a band, symbolizing the interconnection of heaven and earth. The twelve images around the cross are the Twelve Apostles, with Jesus centered in the middle. The birds and wings symbolize the Lord's Estate, Garden of Eden, and the Paradise to come. We were reminded that ancient African history suggests the earliest practices of Christianity come out of Ethiopia, and these vestments pay tribute to that enduring legacy.

Preaching with his signature warmth, humor, and prophetic urgency, Presiding Bishop Curry grounded his sermon in the 17th chapter of Jeremiah: "They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall be green; in the year of drought it shall not be overcome by anxiety, and it does not cease to bear fruit."

Singing the timeless Negro spiritual born of that passage, Curry proclaimed, "Our enslaved African ancestors used to say, 'I shall not be moved. Like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved.' An anniversary is a time to reclaim origin, to go deep into the very roots of who we are. Sandy soil only goes so deep. But if you sink your roots deep enough into God, you find rich, life-giving soil."

Curry drew a vivid parallel from his own pilgrimage to Ghana with fellow descendants of the enslaved and enslavers, recalling a massive centuries-old tree that stood near the slave routes where ancestors were granted a single day of respite before being forced toward Cape Coast Castle, "That tree stood through the rise and fall of empires, through the transatlantic slave trade, through Danish and British conquerors, surviving in a landscape where the Sahara's sand constantly encroaches on good earth. Life itself is lived in an admixture of sand and rich soil. St. Ambrose has stood like that tree for 60 years on Darby Street and 158 years in Raleigh—bearing fruit, offering shade, and refusing to be moved."

Turning toward national conscience and civic life, Curry challenged the congregation not to separate their spiritual roots from their moral responsibility, calling on the faithful to practice active citizenship by voting: "I love my country. But I love it enough that I refuse not to criticize it when it's wrong. When this country mistreats immigrant families or separates children from their mothers, we must stand up and correct it. We must go out and vote. Real love is not an emotional feeling; it is a moral decision to seek the good and the welfare of your neighbor, even when they don't look like you, think like you, or even love you back."

During the liturgy, the congregation offered a Progressive Eucharist, reading prayers honoring each era of the church's relocations and quoting Father Absalom Jones's historic 1808 Thanksgiving sermon celebrating the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. Special prayers of thanksgiving were lifted up for the leaders who shaped the parish's legacy:

The Founders and Builders: The Rev. Jacob Brinton Smith, the Rev. James E. King, and the faithful members who physically relocated the church from Dawson Street to Cabarrus and South Wilmington Street in 1900.

Educational and Social Reformers: Mary E. Phillips, who founded the Saint Ambrose School in 1896 during an era when African American public education was deliberately starved. The school enrolled 170 students and had one of only four kindergartens in North Carolina.

Civil and Environmental Pioneers: The Rev. Arthur J. Calloway, who led the congregation onto Darby Street and served three terms on the Raleigh City Council, and the community warriors who organized against environmental racism along the Walnut Creek wetland.

Historic Firsts: The Rt. Rev. Kimberly D. Lucas, who made history at St. Ambrose as the first African American woman ordained priest in the Diocese of North Carolina before becoming its tenth rector.

The parish also recognized its current shepherd, the Rev. Robert Jemonde Taylor, celebrating his visionary leadership, scholarship, and community engagement across Raleigh and beyond. Additionally, Edna Rich-Ballentine, Emily Cadogan, Douglas Fulford Jr., and the late Gwendolyn Chunn were honored as members of the 60th Anniversary Steering Committee. Connecting faith to direct community engagement, representatives from the Young Black Lawyers' Organizing Coalition addressed the congregation during the announcements, reminding worshippers that North Carolina's early voting window was officially open through October 31. Calling out the refrain "Black Ballots, Black Futures," the coalition provided nonpartisan voting guides and shared the Election Protection Hotline (866-OUR-VOTE) to ensure every parishioner's voice is heard.

For sixty years in Rochester Heights, St. Ambrose has served as a sanctuary of resilience, spiritual nourishment, and prophetic justice. As the final notes of the brass band rang across Darby Street, the message of the day was clear: anchored in rich soil and watered by grace, St. Ambrose remains unshakeable.

Practical Biblical Principles

YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT
Read: 1 Corinthians 12:1-8

By John L. Caldwell, Pastor
New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

You can't believe without the Holy Spirit. "He that believeth in Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive (John 7:38-39).

Belief is the condition for receiving the Spirit of God. Where there is faith there, God's Holy Spirit is present. The Holy Spirit is automatically bestowed when a person exercises faith in Christ and is born again from above (Romans 8:9,14).

Contrary to popular belief, the Holy Spirit is not confined or possessed by or confined to select individuals. The Holy Spirit is the universal heritage of the Christian Church - "Know ye not that your body is the of Temple of the Holy Spirit" (I Corinthians 6:19).

"We have all been made to drink of the Holy Spirit (1Corinthians 12:13). Truth of the matter is not all in church have dranked of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the third Person in the Trinity, Who bestows the vital principal of new life from God common to all believers. "If ye being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to man which ask of Him?

Giving to those we love is a necessary part of our happiness. The giver is God. The gift is the Holy Spirit from whom all blessings flow.

Parents give their children their own spirit. If the child is to know his/her parents, he/she must be of one mind with them. The same is true of God. We are made partakers of the Devine Nature of God (2 Peter 1:4).

Jesus promised that He will pray to the Father that He will give us another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth (John 14:16).

Jesus says to His disciples, "There is so much more I could tell you, but you can't understand it now. When the Holy Spirit comes, He shall lead you and guide you into all truths, teach you and bring to your remembrance the things which I have taught you."

No one can have the genuine gifts of the Spirt without having the Holy Spirit. If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His (Romans 8:9).

He that hath the Son has life (1 John 5:12). We need the Lord Jesus for our eternal life and the Holy Spirit for our internal life.

There is an old Black church song: "I need the Lord to guide me everyday as I walk along this narrow way. Tho afflictions troubles my soul; I'm determined to reach my goal. I got to have Jesus for I just can't make it by myself."

Our Lord tells us, "I've come that they may have life, and that they might have it more abundantly- this refers to the coming of Pentecost, the first time the Spirit of God is dwelling permanently in the earth until Christ returns.

The conditions for receiving the Spirit of God is: We must first recognize the fact that we have been spiritually crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20). Next, we must let the Holy Spirit work out the hate and envy which is within us. The Holy Spirit spiritually cleans us out. He gives us the power to do good. Everything which is displeasing to God is separated from us. We are then set free from those things which held us down and didn't allow us to grow gracefully in the Spirit.

In a sense, we must wait quietly on the Lord (Isaiah 40:31). It's like waiting on the sea breeze to blow the sails instead of having to row the boat.

Now let us present our bodies as a living sacrifice giving the Holy Spirit reason to live there (Romans 12:1).

We must not be ashamed of the Holy Spirit, lest He be ashamed of us. In this case, He will not present us without spot or wrinkle to the Father.

Be obedient. Let the Holy Spirit manifest Himself in and through your life, so that others may know Him and the power of His Resurrection.

Classifieds

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Buckland Elementary School Wastewater Improvements** project for **Gates County** which bids on **October 22, 2026, at 10:00 AM.** Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Gates County, County Manager's Office; 115 Court Street; Gatesville, NC 27938 * Green Engineering, PLLC; 303 Goldsboro Street, East; Wilson, NC 27893 * ConstructConnect website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, hauling, erosion control, seeding, electrical, SCADA, jack & bore, directional drilling, bypass pumping, flatwork, and fencing. Please contact the **Conveyance Estimating Group (conveyancebids@taloving.com)** if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax: 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to the closing time of the bid date. T. A. Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations for all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to the bid date.

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **T. S. Cooper School Wastewater Improvements** project for **Gates County** which bids on **October 22, 2026, at 10:00 AM.** Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Gates County, County Manager's Office; 115 Court Street; Gatesville, NC 27938 * Green Engineering, PLLC; 303 Goldsboro Street, East; Wilson, NC 27893 * ConstructConnect website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, hauling, erosion control, seeding, electrical, jack & bore, directional drilling, bypass pumping, flatwork, and fencing. Please contact the **Conveyance Estimating Group (conveyancebids@taloving.com**) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax: 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to the closing time of the bid date. T. A. Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations for all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to the bid date.

PAYING CASH AND BUYING ALL OLD RAP MUSIC CASSETTE TAPES AND MIXTAPES. CALL MARVIN 919-268-7476.

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Fish Pond Road Booster Pump Station & Water Main Extensions** project for **Wilson County** which bids on **October 20, 2026, at 10:30 AM.** Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Wilson County; Wilson County Government Center; 2201 Miller Road, South; Wilson, NC 27893 * Green Engineering, PLLC; 303 Goldsboro Street, East; Wilson, NC 27893 * ConstructConnect website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, electrical, SCADA, linework/pipe installation, jack & bore, bypass pumping, directional drilling, flatwork, painting, and fencing. Please contact the **Conveyance Estimating Group (conveyancebids@taloving.com**) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax: 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to the closing time of the bid date. T. A. Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations for all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to the bid date.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Town of Ayden
P.O. Box 219
Ayden, NC 28513

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of 2025 Sanitary Sewer Improvements Contract No. 11 - Sanitary Sewer Improvements will be received by the ENGINEER at Ayden Town Hall, 4144 West Avenue, Ayden, NC 28513 until 2:00 PM, November 12, 2026, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:
Ayden Town Hall, 4144 West Avenue, Ayden, NC 28513
McDavid Associates, Inc., 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-049
(View online at www.mcdavid-inc.com)
Dodge Data and Analytics, 2860 South State Highway 161, Suite 160, #501, Grand Prairie, TX 750527361
(View online at www.construction.com)
ConstructConnect, Attn: DPC, 30 Technology Parkway South, Suite 100, Norcross, GA 30092
(View online at www.constructconnect.com)
Construction Journal, 400 SW 7th Street, Stuart, FL 34994
(View online at www.ConstructionJournal.com)
Builders & Contractors Exchange, Inc., 1118 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, VA 235025612
(View online at www.bceva.com)

Physical copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of McDavid Associates, Inc. located at 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-0049 upon a non-refundable payment of $211.00 for each set.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all BIDS.

BIDDER shall be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes of North Carolina. Small, minority, women's, and disadvantaged businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit BIDS.

This PROJECT is subject to the good faith efforts and goals for participation by minority businesses required by G.S. 143-128.2. The OWNER has adopted a verifiable ten percent (10%) goal for participation by minority businesses in the total value of the WORK.

BIDDERS shall, within the time frames specified in the BID documents, submit all required affidavits and documentation demonstrating that the BIDDER made the required good faith effort in compliance with G.S. 143-128.2. Failure to file all required affidavits and documentation within the required time frames is grounds for rejection of the BID.

Prospective BIDDERS who have been found guilty of discrimination within the last two (2) years are debarred from bidding.

A pre-Bid conference will be held at 10:00 am on October 29, 2026 in Ayden Operations Center, 4061 East Avenue, Ayden, NC 28513. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this pre-bid conference as part of their good faith efforts.

October 7, 2026

Stephen Smith
Town Manager

Town of Ayden

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Town of Ayden
P.O. Box 219
Ayden, NC 28513

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of 2025 Water Improvements Contract No. 10 - Galvanized/Cast Iron Water Line Replacement will be received by the ENGINEER at Ayden Town Hall, 4144 West Avenue, Ayden, NC 28513 until 2:00 PM, November 24, 2026, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:
Ayden Town Hall, 4144 West Avenue, Ayden, NC 28513
McDavid Associates, Inc., 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-049
(View online at www.mcdavid-inc.com)
Dodge Data and Analytics, 2860 South State Highway 161, Suite 160, #501, Grand Prairie, TX 750527361
(View online at www.construction.com)
ConstructConnect, Attn: DPC, 30 Technology Parkway South, Suite 100, Norcross, GA 30092
(View online at www.constructconnect.com)
Construction Journal, 400 SW 7th Street, Stuart, FL 34994
(View online at www.ConstructionJournal.com)
Builders & Contractors Exchange, Inc., 1118 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, VA 235025612
(View online at www.bceva.com)

Physical copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of McDavid Associates, Inc. located at 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-0049 upon a non-refundable payment of $100.00 for each set.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all BIDS.

BIDDER shall be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes of North Carolina. Small, minority, women's, and disadvantaged businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit BIDS.

This PROJECT is subject to the good faith efforts and goals for participation by minority businesses required by G.S. 143-128.2. The OWNER has adopted a verifiable ten percent (10%) goal for participation by minority businesses in the total value of the WORK.

BIDDERS shall, within the time frames specified in the BID documents, submit all required affidavits and documentation demonstrating that the BIDDER made the required good faith effort in compliance with G.S. 143-128.2. Failure to file all required affidavits and documentation within the required time frames is grounds for rejection of the BID.

Prospective BIDDERS who have been found guilty of discrimination within the last two (2) years are debarred from bidding.

A pre-Bid conference will be held at 2:00 PM on November 5, 2026 in Ayden Operations Center, 4061 East Ave., Ayden, NC 28513. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this pre-bid conference as part of their good faith efforts.

October 23, 2026

Stephen Smith
Town Manager

Town of Ayden

ATTENTION: DBE'S-WBE'S-MBE'S

Barnhill Contracting Company will be bidding on the following project on January 16th, 2024. We are most interested in receiving quotes from your company on these projects:

Raleigh Paving Division Contract ID: 211290

Contact: David Chopik, **dchopik@barnhillcontracting.com** , at 919-787-2442 or fax 919-783-5616 in our Raleigh Office, located at 4325 Pleasant Valley Rd., Raleigh, NC 27612.

Pre-Bid Meeting: **Wednesday October 28th, 2026 at 10:00 AM in the Raleigh Office.**

If you would like to join the pre-bid meeting via Teams plus, contact the estimator for a link to the meeting invite.

1. For hauling operations, we will need to know how many of your own hauling units will be available for this project. We will need this on your written quote prior to bid time and this will be made a part of any subcontract.
2. Plans and specifications are available at:
   a. NC DOT **https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Central.aspx**
   b. Plans may also be viewed in our offices. Please call for an appointment.
3. These projects include opportunities on, but not limited to erosion control, inlet protection and temporary pumping; pavement removal, cold milling and asphalt crack repair; excavation, grading, subgrade preparation and lime stabilization; aggregate base and hauling; concrete pavement; pavement marking/removal, temporary airfield markings and grooving; underdrains, cleanouts and inlet lid/grate replacement; electrical demolition, airfield/apron lighting and controls, conduit/duct banks, cabling/grounding, junction cans/handholes, wind cones, PAPI, closure lights, retroreflective markers and MALMS/photometric testing; pavement sensors/weather monitoring; CCTV/fiber; seeding; quality control/testing (other than asphalt). All firms or persons interested in bidding on any applicable portions of these projects or supplying materials for any applicable portion of this project are invited to contact us direct or by phone (we accept collect calls). By submitting a quote, it is understood that you have read and understand the specifications.

"The North Carolina Department of Transportation, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 US.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. In accordance with other related nondiscrimination authorities, bidders and contractors will also not be discriminated against on the grounds of sex, age, disability, low-income level, creed/religion, or limited English proficiency in consideration for an award."

NC General Contractors Lic. # 3194
Attn: Tom Shannon

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Long Leaf Pine —*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6*

Salem's history, Joines has led the city for a quarter-century. During his 25-year tenure, Joines recruited 70 new or expanding companies that brought more than 29,000 jobs to the city, successfully drove major reductions in homelessness—virtually eliminating it among local military veterans, and spearheaded comprehensive public health and workforce programs.

Gov. Stein also celebrated inductees who have fortified public institutions, fairness in the courts, and democratic access:

Judge Michael L. Robinson: A native of Winston-Salem and UNC School of Law graduate, Judge Robinson practiced complex business litigation for 25 years before his appointment to the North Carolina Business Court in 2016, eventually retiring earlier this year as Chief Business Court Judge. Known among colleagues for his early-morning work ethic, Robinson was commended for his fair administration of commercial law.

Tim Tsujii: As Forsyth County Director of Elections and formerly with Guilford County. Tsujii has spent his career safeguarding the right to vote. In 2016, Tsujii implemented the state's first real-time polling wait tracker with turn-by-turn navigation, an innovation that earned a 2026 Clearinghouse Award from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission and served as the direct model for statewide wait-time reductions across North Carolina DMV offices.

Kelly Moore: Serving as the Director of Forensic Services for the Greensboro Police Department, Moore rose from crime scene investigator to oversee a division twice awarded the global Project FORESIGHT Maximus Award (2023 and 2025), ranking among the top 15 forensic units in the world. Gov. Stein noted Moore's critical role in helping the state eliminate the backlog of thousands of untested sexual assault evidence collection kits during his tenure as attorney general.

The ceremony reached an emotional peak as Gov. Stein honored Winston-Salem Police Officer Michael F. Smith and Sergeant Liam Whelan. The pair performed a daring, life-saving water rescue last year after two children were swept away in a fast-moving current in Salem Creek, finding them stranded on a rock in the river and bringing them safely ashore. "For any one of us, it would be a tremendous act of heroism, but for them, it was another day at the office," Stein said, noting that two families were spared unimaginable tragedy thanks to their quick response.

Classifieds

CHATHAM COUNTY

North Carolina Chatham County
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 26CV001231-180

To: SALOMON CINTURA ROBLES, Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed. The nature of the relief being sought is for child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than November 25, 2026 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, GENOVEVA IDOLINA CABALLERO-ESCANDON, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 15th day of October 2026.
Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026

North Carolina Chatham County
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 26CV001230-180

To: GUADALUPE DEYANIRA LOZOYA-CABALLERO and JOHN DOE, Defendants.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed. The nature of the relief being sought is for child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than November 25, 2026 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, GENOVEVA IDOLINA CABALLERO-ESCANDON, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 15th day of October 2026.
Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026

North Carolina Chatham County
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 26CV001222-180
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

To: OSCAR ORLANDO ROSALES LAMOTHE, Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed. The nature of the relief being sought
is for child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than November 25, 2026 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, RICSY MORELIA CUBAS VELASQUEZ, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 15th day of October 2026.
Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001269-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of URAI SILPRAKOB JONES, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 22nd day of October, 2026.
Winfred Samuel Jones Jr.
Administrator
c/o Law Office of Anne Page Watson
3200 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 403
Durham, NC 27705
10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before The Clerk
26E001209-310

Robin Lewis Wilson, having qualified as Executor of the estate of SUSAN MARIE WILSON late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wish to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 22nd day of January, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This is the 22nd day of October, 2026.
Robin Lewis Wilson, Executor
314 Andover Road
Durham NC 27712
10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before The Clerk
File #: 26E000708-310
In The Matter Of The Estate Of:
Carla Lynette Boynton,
Decedent.
Administrator's
Notice To Creditors

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Carla Lynette Boynton, late, Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of Leitner, Bragg &. Griffin, PLLC, 6135 Park South Drive, Suite 210, Charlotte, NC 28210, on or before the 29th day of January, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 16th day of October, 2026,
/Adrienne R. Cherry/
Leitner, Bragg & Griffin, PLLC
6135 Park South Drive, Suite 210,
Charlotte, NC 28210
On behalf of Imani Shah, (Personal Representative)
Administrator of the Estate of Carla Lynette Boynton
10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before The Clerk
File #: 26E000707-310
In The Matter Of The Estate Of:
Andre Orlando Boynton,
Decedent.
Administrator's
Notice To Creditors

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Andre Orlando Boynton, late, Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of Leitner, Bragg &. Griffin, PLLC, 6135 Park South Drive, Suite 210, Charlotte, NC 28210, on or before the 29th day of January, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 16th day of October, 2026.
/Adrienne R. Cherry/
Leitner, Bragg & Griffin, PLLC
6135 Park South Drive, Suite 210,
Charlotte, NC 28210
On behalf of Imani Shah, (Personal Representative)
Administrator of the Estate of Andre Orlando Boynton
10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 15th day of October 2026, as Executor of the ESTATE OF RANDY LEON ROBERTS, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of January 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 22nd day of October 2026.
CINDY LOU BOAK, EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF RANDY LEON ROBERTS
c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
PO Box 51549
Durham, NC 27717
File No. 26E001264-310
10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF KEVIN BARRY WATERS
26E001186-310

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Kevin Barry Waters, late a resident of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to present them to the undersigned by January 20, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Anyone indebted to said estate should make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 22nd day of October, 2026
Katie Morgan Hawes
Theodora A. Vaporis, Attorney
c/o Tuggle Duggins, P.A.
P.O. Box 2888
Greensboro, NC 27402
10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 16th of October 2026, as Executor of the ESTATE OF DAVID BARRETT JORGENSEN, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd of January 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 22nd of October 2026.
CLARA B. JORGENSEN
EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF DAVID BARRETT JORGENSEN
c/o E. J. Walker, Jr., Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 26CV010778-310

DIANE JOY HAWTHORNE, PLAINTIFF VS. MARIO LAMONT McPHERSON, DEFENDANT

TO: MARIO LAMONT McPHERSON

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief sought is as follows:

Complaint for Absolute Divorce

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than December 1, 2026 and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 22nd day of October, 2026.
Alexander S. Perry
PERRY, PERRY & PERRY, P.A.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
601 Fayetteville Street, Suite 300
Post Office Drawer 2051
Durham, North Carolina 27702
Telephone: (919) 683-8685
10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001258-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARTA VELEZ, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 15th day of October, 2026.
Uroyoán R. Walker, Executor
E3 Calle Teresa Walker
Canóvanas, PR 00729
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against CATHERINE DICKENS HOLLAND, deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to undersigned on or before the 7th day of January, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 15th day of October, 2026. Catherine Elizabeth Holland Sargent and Sarah Lynn Holland McGovern, Executor, Manning, Fulton & Skinner, P.A., c/o Sandra Clark, 4131 Parklake Ave, Suite 300, Raleigh, NC 27612.
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E000869-310

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of WILLIAM CHASE MANSON, deceased, of 2702 Newquay Street, Durham, NC 27705, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before January 16, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 15th day of October, 2026.
Christian Manson
Administrators of the Estate of William Chase Manson
c/o N. Vail Gardner, Esq.
Vail Gardner Law, PLLC
732 9th Street #621
Durham, NC 27705
FOR PUBLICATION: The Carolinian
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001245-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of WILLIE LEE HAYNES, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 15th day of October, 2026.
Matthew Haynes, Executor
c/o Hicks, Preddy, Washburn & Brummitt, PC
135 College Street
P.O. Box 247
Oxford, NC 27565
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001246-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ROBERT STEVEN SCHERE, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 15th day of October, 2026.
Kenneth L. Schere, Executor
120 Sailfish Ct.
Durham, NC 27703
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001157-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DENNIS ROBERT SHIPMAN, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 15th day of October, 2026.
William John Shipman, Executor
c/o Marion Law Office, PLLC
2741 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001118-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR CTA of the Estate of JUDITH BEIGHLEY CROSS, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 15th day of October, 2026.
Susan Teschner, Administrator CTA
709 Sewgrass Lane
Mt Pleasant, SC 29464
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001223-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARY VIRGINIA BROWN AK/A MARY VIRGINIA W. BROWN, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 15th day of October, 2026.
Rebecca W. Fitzgerald, Executor
c/o Law Office of Anne Page Watson
3200 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 403
Durham, NC 27705
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026

NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
FILE NO. 26CV001868-310

AMERICAN CREDIT ACCEPTANCE, LLC Plaintiff, vs. JADE HARRIS, Defendant.

TO: Jade Harris
2920 Chapel Hill Rd. Apt 1C
Durham NC 27707

Jade Harris
1400 E Cornwallis Rd Apt 1304
Durham NC 27713

Jade Harris
719B Winfrey St
Clinton NC 28328-3325

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

1. Judgment for possession of a 2023 Hyundai Elantra bearing VIN# KMHLS4AG8PU425670;

2. Judgment for the sum of $25,103.49 plus interest at the contractual rate of 21% Per annum from November 10, 2025 until date of judgment and at the statutory rate of 8% thereafter until paid in full;

3. Judgment for Plaintiff's reasonable attorney's fees in the amount of $3,765.52;

4. Judgment for Plaintiff's costs;

5. All other relief to which Plaintiff is entitled.

You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than November 30, 2026 and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This 8th day of October, 2026.
By: David S. Belisle
State Bar No. 60242
SMITH DEBNAM NARRON
DRAKE SAINTSING & MYERS, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
PO Box 176010
Raleigh, N.C. 27619
(919) 250-2000
10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E001146-310

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of MICHAEL LEWIS KELLY, deceased, of 923 Carroll Street, Durham County, Durham, NC 27701, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before January 9, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 8th day of October, 2026.
Jeffrey L. Austin, PLLC
Public Administrator of the Estate of Michael Lewis Kelly
500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330
FOR PUBLICATION: The Carolinian
10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E000766-310

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of DEGUI YUAN (a/k/a DE GUI YUAN), deceased, of 1 Barwinds Circle, Durham County, Durham, NC 27713, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before January 9, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 8th day of October, 2026.
Jeffrey L. Austin, PLLC
Public Administrator of the Estate of DeGui Yuan
500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330
FOR PUBLICATION: The Carolinian
10/8, 10/15, 10/22 and 10/29/2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF NICOLAS MARTSCHENKO
FILE NO. 26E001142-310

ALL PERSONS, firms, and corporations having claims against NICOLAS MARTSCHENKO, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before January 8, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 8th of October, 2026. Alice Mask, Executor of the Estate of Nicolas Martschenko, c/o Richard Long, Attorney, 1255 Crescent Green, Suite 200, Cary, NC 27518.
10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E000013-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of CLYDE DOUGLAS PERRY, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 8th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 8th day of October, 2026.
Candice Donnica Perry
Administrator
42 Holly Berry Lane
Durham, NC 27703
10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 29th day of September 2026, as Executor of the ESTATE OF DONG HWA TAYLOR, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of January 2027 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 8th day of October 2026.
CECILIA KYUNG CHU, EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF DONG HWA TAYLOR
c/o SHIRLEY M. DIEFENBACH, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK FILE NO. 26SP000869-310 FOR THE ADOPTION OF A MALE MINOR

TO: Luis Bazan Guzman, the legal father of Baby Boy Bazan, a male child, born on July 30, 2026 in Durham, Durham County, North Carolina, to Jessica Bazan.

Take notice that a Petition for Adoption was filed with the Clerk of Superior Court for Durham County, North Carolina in the above entitled special proceeding. The Petition relates to Baby Boy Bazan, a male child, born on July 30, 2026 in Durham, Durham County, North Carolina, to Jessica Bazan. Upon information and belief, Ms. Bazan is legally married to Luis Bazan Guzman, but his whereabouts are unknown. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that you are required to file a response to such pleading not later than 40 days from the first day of publication of this notice, that date being November 18, 2026, and upon your failure to do so the Petitioner will apply to the Court for relief sought in the Petition. Any

DURHAM COUNTY

parental rights you may have will be terminated upon the entry of the decree of adoption.
Kelly T. Dempsey, Attorney for Petitioners, 10310 Couloak Drive, #400, Charlotte NC 28216.
10/8, 10/15, and 10/22/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF JOHN JOSEPH SNEDDON
FILE NO. 22E000375-310
All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against John Joseph Sneddon, deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before January 06, 2027 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the Decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 1st day of October 2026.
LuAnn Sneddon Pendergraft,
Co-Executor and
Amy Sneddon McKnight, Co-Executor
C/O Hanrahan Law PLLC
4801 Glenwood Ave. Ste 200
Raleigh, NC 27612
10/1, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/22/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001201-310
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of DAVID DANIEL CRAIG, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 1st day of October, 2026.
Alan Wade Craig, Administrator
817 Fanning Way
Durham, NC 27704
10/1, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/22/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001156-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of PAULA SCHUBERT, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 1st day of October, 2026.
Scott Pappas, Executor
c/o Attorney Christopher Hill
311 E. Main Street
Durham, NC 27701
10/1, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/22/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001159-310
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR and CO-ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of VALJEANE KING SIMPSON, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 1st day of October, 2026.
Katherine King Cooper
Administrator
6409 3rd St. NW
Washington, DC 20012
Arvetta King Weston
Co-Administrator
5237 New Hampshire Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20011
10/1, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/22/2026

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E003787-910
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of GLORIA ELLEN BROWN A/K/A GLORIA T. BROWN AKA GLORIA BROWN, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 22nd day of October, 2026.
Curtis Brown, Executor
c/o Christopher Hill
311 E. Main street
Durham, NC, 27701
10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E003834-910
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JOEL BAYNES LONG, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 8th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 8th day of October, 2026.
Elisabeth L. Burlee, Executor
1207 Balustrade Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23226
10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E002169-910
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JOSEPH LOVELL PIERCE, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 1st day of October, 2026.
Lisa Ann Pierce, Administratrix
c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr.
4 Consultant Pl.
Durham, NC 27707
10/1, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/22/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E002594-910
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of RAYMOND PARIS WILLIAMS, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 1st day of October, 2026.
Antonio Paris Williams
Administrator
6029 Quitman Trl.
Raleigh, NC 27610
10/1, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/22/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 25E003477-910
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JOHN TIMOTHY RHODES, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 1st day of October, 2026.
Shannon Williamson, Administrator
2644 Wintergreen Rd
Nashville, NC 27856
10/1, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/22/2026

GUILFORD COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
TO: CALVIN F. McCAIN, Defendant
Take notice that a Complaint for Absolute Divorce has been filed against you in the District Court of Guilford County, North Carolina, seeking an absolute divorce from the bonds of matrimony.
You are required to make defense to the Complaint within forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of this notice, exclusive of the date of first publication. You must file your response with the Clerk of Superior Court of Guilford County, North Carolina, within that time.
If you fail to file and serve a response within the required forty (40) days, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought in the Complaint, including entry of a judgment by default for an Absolute Divorce.
This the 22nd day of October, 2026.
Sharrie McCain
Plaintiff, Pro Se
Address: 329 Henry Steel Dr.
Gibsonville, NC 27249
Telephone: (336) 965-5328
10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026

FORECLOSURE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE
IN THE COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
BEFORE THE CLERK
26 SP 001858-910
NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
UNDER AND BY VIRTUE of the power and authority contained in that certain (i) Deed of Trust, dated as of June 8, 2022 (the "Deed of Trust"), from Westgrove Tower Owner LLC ("Borrower") to Ladder Capital Finance LLC ("Original Lender"), and recorded on June 10, 2022, in the Wake County Register of Deeds (the "Records"), in Book 019054, at Page 01254, and because of default in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and failure to carry out and perform the stipulations and agreements therein contained and pursuant to an Order entered by the Clerk of Superior Court and pursuant to demand of the owner and holder of the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will expose for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the usual place of sale in the Courthouse of Wake County, in the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, at 1:00 O'CLOCK P.M. on OCTOBER 27, 2026, all of that certain real estate, including all improvements and fixtures located thereon, and all personal property associated therewith, situated, lying, and being in Wake County, North Carolina, and more particularly described in the Deed of Trust identified above, which description is incorporated by reference herein as amended, modified, or supplemented by other instruments, if any, recorded subsequent to the Deed of Trust in the Recorder's Office of Wake County.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
SEE "EXHIBIT A" AND "EXHIBIT B" ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED HEREIN BY THIS REFERENCE.
The Property includes personal property and fixtures as permitted by North Carolina General Statutes Section 25-9-604.
[Together with and subject to tenants in possession, as tenants only, under any leases or rental agreements, recorded or unrecorded.]
PRESENT RECORD OWNER(S): Westgrove Tower Owner LLC.
Should the property be purchased by a third party bidder, that party must pay the court costs of Forty-Five Cents (45¢) per One Hundred Dollars ($100.00), or major fraction thereof, of the final sale price as required by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7A-308(a)(1), and excise tax of One dollar ($1.00) on each Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00), or fractional part thereof, of the value of the interest conveyed as required by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 105-228.30.
The Substitute Trustee reserves the right to require of the successful bidder at such sale a cash deposit of 5% of the amount of the bid or $750.00, whichever is greater.
The real property hereinabove described will be sold "AS IS", "WHERE IS", subject to any and all superior liens, encumbrances, and restrictions of record, and any and all taxes and special assessments. Substitute Trustee makes no representations or warranties whatsoever. This sale will be held open for ten (10) days for upset bids as by law required.
This the 21st day of September, 2026.
HONEYCUTT LAW FIRM, PLLC
/s/ John B. Honeycutt, Jr.
John B. Honeycutt, Jr.
Substitute Trustee
P. O. Box 2484
Cornelius, NC 28031
Telephone: (704) 997-5450
Posted: October 15 & October 22, 2026
Facsimile: (877) 554-6209
September 21, 2026
EXHIBIT A
LEGAL DESCRIPTION
The Westgrove Tower condominium units specifically described in the "Units" section attached hereto created by the Declaration of Condominium for Westgrove Tower recorded in Book 3652, Page 705, as amended in Book 3672, Page 100, and Book 8131, page 105, and Book 16512, Page 2314, Wake County Registry, and their appurtenant undivided interests in the Westgrove Tower Common Areas and Facilities, located within the following described condominium parcel of land: COMMENCING from NCGS Monument "Western", having NAD '83 coordinates of Northing 225706.088 markers and Easting 636714.916 markers as a bearing and distance of North 09 degrees 08 minutes 10 seconds East for 890.59 feet to a concrete monument at the Northeast corner of property of Jack A. Sneden Corp. as recorded in Deed Book 1954 at page 135, being the point of beginning, and running the following courses and distances; North 66 degrees 40 minutes 05 seconds West for 979.52 feet to an iron pipe; North 01 degree 04 minutes 43 seconds West for 60.00 feet to an iron pipe; North 53 degrees 51 minutes 50 seconds East for 94.66 feet to an iron pipe; North 53 degrees 53 minutes 02 seconds East for 519.74 feet to an iron pipe; North 15 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds East for 71.76 feet to an iron pipe; South 88 degrees 46 minutes 31 seconds East for 459.60 feet to an iron pipe; South 00 degrees 35 minutes 29 seconds East for 504.13 feet to the point of beginning and containing 364,423,621 square feet or 8.366 acres, all according to a plat of survey entitled, "Westgrove Towers" dated May 7, 1998, prepared by Aiken & Yelle Associates, PA, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.
UNITS:
102A, 517A, 810D, 1011A, 104A, 519A, 811A, 1012A, 107A, 521D, 812A, 1013B, 109D, 600B, 813B, 1014A, 110D, 601C, 814A, 1015A, 113B, 602A, 815A, 1016B, 114A, 604A, 816B, 1017A, 115A, 605A, 817A, 1018A, 117A, 607A, 818A, 1019A, 119A, 608A, 819A, 1020A, 202A, 609D, 820A, 1021D, 205A, 610D, 821D, 1100B, 206B, 611A, 900B, 1101C, 208A, 612A, 901C, 1102A, 209D, 613B, 902A, 1103B, 211A, 614A, 903B, 1104A, 214A, 615A, 904A, 1105A, 301C, 616B, 905A, 1106B, 303B, 617A, 906B, 1107A, 321D and 505A

FORECLOSURE

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
Special Proceedings No. 26SP000817-910
Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass
Date of Sale: October 26, 2026
Time of Sale: 11:00 a.m.
Place of Sale: Wake County Courthouse
Description of Property: See Attached Description
Record Owners: Tryon@Gorman LLC
Addresses of Property:
3702 Tryon Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27606
3704 Tryon Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27606
3712 Tryon Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27606
Deed of Trust:
Book : 19635 Page: 197
Dated: June 11, 2024
Grantors: Tryon@Gorman LLC
Original Beneficiary: Loan Originations, LLC
CONDITIONS OF SALE:
This sale is made subject to all unpaid taxes and superior liens or encumbrances of record and assessments, if any, against the said property, and any recorded leases. This sale is also subject to any applicable county land transfer tax, and the successful third party bidder shall be required to make payment for any such county land transfer tax. It is the intent of the holder of the above Deed of Trust that the execution, delivery and recordation of a Trustee Deed to the holder as high bidder shall not merge with any superior Deeds of Trust held by the holder of the above Deed of Trust, and that the holder of said superior Deed of Trust shall continue to enjoy all rights and remedies set forth in said superior Deed of Trust, including the right to foreclose either by judicial action or under power of sale contained in the superior Deed of Trust.
The property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS." THERE ARE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES relating to the title or to any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition are expressly disclaimed.
A cash deposit of 5% of the purchase price will be required at the time of the sale. Remote bidding will not be accepted pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.25 (a). Credit bids on behalf of the Noteholder will be accepted. Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the full balance of the purchase price so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to him a deed for the property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance purchase price so bid at that time, he shall remain liable on his bid as provided for in North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.30 (d) and (e). This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law.
Residential real property with less than 15 rental units, including single-family residential real property: an order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.
Dated: 8/10/2026
Posted on 8/24/2026
Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee,
Nodell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.
BEGINNING at an iron pipe, said iron pipe being located 426 feet North of the northern edge
of the Holly Springs Road; and being also the Northeast comer of Lot 4 of plat hereinafter
referred to; runs thence North 69 degrees West 399 feet to a point marked by an axle in the line of Milton Thomas; runs thence along Milton Thomas's line North 24 degrees 30 minutes East 70
feet to a point marked by a holt; runs thence North 15 degrees East 37 feet to an iron stake; runs
thence South 69 degrees 30 minutes East 386 feet to an iron stake; runs thence South 13 degrees
45 minutes West 110 feet to the point of beginning, containing one (1) acre and being designated
as Parcel Number 3 of a map of the property of the William Barbee Estate dated February 4,
1960 as surveyed and platted by E.C. Smith, R.L.S.
Subject to easements, restrictions and rights of way of record, and utility lines and rights of way in
existence over, under or upon the above-described property.
PIN: 0782878898
Property Address: 3702 Tryon Rd. Raleigh, NC 27606
BEGINNING at a stake on the North side of Holly Springs Road, said stake being located S.
65° 30' E. 135 feet from an iron bolt which is situated at the southwest comer of the property
of Lena Tucker; runs thence N. 13° 45' E. in a line parallel lo and 30 feet cast of the eastern
property line of Lena Tucker lo a point; runs thence N. 69°30' W. 30 feet to an iron stake; of
Lena Tucker property, 426 feet to the North side of the Holly Springs Road; runs thence along
the North side of Holly Springs Road, 30 feet lo the point of BEGINNING, and consisting of a
thirty-foot strip of property on the cast side of the property of Lena Tucker property, all
according to the map of the property of William Barbee Estate, by E.C. Smith, R.L.S., dated
February 4, 1960
and
BEGINNING at a stake, said being located 30 feet north of the north line of Holly Springs Road; at the southwest comer of the property of Estelle B. Jones; runs thence along the western line of the said Estelle B. Jones property, North 13 degrees 45 minutes East, 426 feet to an iron pipe; runs thence North 69 degrees West I 03 feet to an iron pipe; runs thence along the eastern line ofthe Henry Davis property, South 13 degrees 45 minutes West, 421 feet to an iron bolt, said bolt being located 30 foci north of the northern line of said Holly Springs Road;
runs thence along the line parallel to and 30 feet north of the northern line of Holly Springs Road, South 65 degrees 30 minutes East, 105 feet to the point of BEGINNING; containing one acre, more or less, and being Tract 4 of the property of William Barbee Estate, according to plat of same by E. C. Smith, R.L.S., dated February 4, 1960.
And being the same property surveyed by John A Edwards & Company for Tryon @ Gonnan LLC on or about December 6, 2017:
BEGINNING AT AN EXISTING IRON PIPE ON THE NORTHERN RIGHT OF WAY OF TRYON ROAD, SAID POINT BEING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE PARCEL DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK 16060, PAGE 2746 AND HAVING NORTH CAROLINA GRID COORDINATES OF N=727,376.36 AND E=2,089,035.39'; THENCE FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING, ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY, NORTH 61° 12'08" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 31. 73 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE; THENCE LEA YING SAID RIGHT OF WAY, NORTH 09° 46' 24" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 389.93 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE; THENCE SOUTH 72° 38' 13" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 0.85 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE; THENCE SOUTH 72° 36' 14" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 29.42 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE: THENCE SOUTH 09° 56' 19" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 157.73 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE; THENCE SOUTH 09° 48' 59" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 133.14 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE; THENCE SOUTH 09° 28' 17" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF I 05.39 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE, SAID PIPE BEING THE POINT AND PLACE OF BEGINNING, AND CONTAINING 11,660 S.F. OR 0.2677 AC. and SITUATED IN THE SWIFT CREEK TOWNSHIP, WAKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
BEGINNING AT AN EXISTING IRON PIPE ON THE NORTHERN RIGHT OF WAY OF TRYON ROAD, SAID POINT BEING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF TRACT 4 AS DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK I 667, PAGE 211 AND HAVING NORTH CAROLINA GRID COORDINATES OF N=727,443.80' AND E=2,088,912.70'; THENCE FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING, LEAVING SAID RIGHT OF WAY, NORTH 09° 58' 03" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 368.11 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE; THENCE SOUTH 72° 38' 13" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 102.00 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE; THENCE SOUTH 09° 46' 24" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 389.93 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE SET ON THE NORTHERN RIGHT OF WAY OF TRYON ROAD; THENCE ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY NORTH 61° 12'08" WEST FORA DISTANCE OF 108.27 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE, SAID PIPE BEING THE POINT AND PLACE OF BEGINNING, AND CONTAINING 38,572 S.F. OR 0.8855 AC.
Subject to easements, restrictions and rights of way of record, and utility lines and rights of way in existence over, under or upon the above-described property.
PIN: 0782879687
Property Address: 3704 Tryon Rd. Raleigh, NC 27606
BEGINNING at a monument at the intersection of the right-of-way of S.R. 1009 (Holly Springs Road) and Gorman Street; runs thence North 10° 29' 17" East 332.56 feet to an existing iron pipe; runs thence South 72° 40' 13" East 295.95 feet to an existing iron pipe; runs thence South 09° 58' 02" West 397.86 feet to a monument in the right-of-way of S.R. 1009 (Holly Springs Road); runs thence North 71 ° 03' 53' West 62.97 feet to a monument; runs thence North 64° 29' 20" West 152.85 feet to a monument; runs thence North 45° 57' 47" West 101.66 feet to the point and place of BEGINNING, as shown on survey dated September 29, 1988, prepared by Al Prince & Associates, P.A., entitled "Survey for Donald E. Smith and Lillian Smith - Harden Property - Wake County, North Carolina".
Subject to easements, restrictions and rights of way of record, and utility lines and rights of way in existence over, under or upon the above-described property.
PIN: 0782878607
Property Address: 3712 Tryon Rd. Raleigh, NC 27606
October 15 & October 22, 2026

Politics & Election News

City of Raleigh and Wake County Candidate Forum at Shaw

By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

On Saturday, the 2026 City of Raleigh and Wake County Candidate Forum took place in Shaw University's Estey Hall, bringing together mayoral and City Council candidates for a morning session, followed by an afternoon session featuring candidates for Wake County commissioner, soil and water conservation district supervisor, and the Wake County Board of Education.

The forum gave residents an opportunity to hear candidates address local policy questions, compare their positions and discuss how they would respond to the challenges facing Raleigh as the city continues to grow.

Dr. LaShonda Lucas, a Shaw University social work faculty member and community advocate, moderated the morning session. She outlined the forum's rules, giving candidates 60 seconds to answer each question and requiring them to respond directly without rebuttals or exchanges with opponents. Audience members submitted written questions, which organizers reviewed and grouped by topic before presenting them.

Lucas began by identifying the concerns driving the discussion.

"People across Raleigh and Wake County are really concerned with housing costs, wages, public safety, schools, taxes, flooding, growth, and the environment," she said.

Those issues shaped three rounds of questions covering infrastructure funding, public participation, affordable housing, homelessness, data centers, traffic, environmental standards, and youth engagement.

The first question to mayoral candidates focused on how Raleigh should distribute the cost of growth-related infrastructure among taxpayers, developers, and other funding sources.

Current Mayor Janet Cowell argued that concentrating development in areas where infrastructure already exists would help the city accommodate new residents without taking on unnecessary expenses.

"Growing and targeting densities where we already have infrastructure is the key to being able to afford the growth," Cowell said.

She pointed to Raleigh's comprehensive plan and designated growth centers as examples of how the city could direct development toward areas better equipped to handle it.

Ashleigh Heath Armstrong, an independent candidate for mayor of Raleigh, challenged the city's approach to planning, arguing that officials must examine the financial implications of development rather than overlook basic infrastructure and accounting concerns.

Candidates also debated how City Council should balance public comment with the need to conduct municipal business efficiently.

At-large candidate Sana Siddiqui said community engagement should remain central to the council's work. She said officials should explain decisions when they differ from residents' preferences and ensure people understand the reasoning behind municipal policies.

Joshua Bradley, a Green Party candidate for City Council at-large, argued that elected officials must prioritize the people they represent over the interests of business organizations and other influential groups.

"We have a responsibility to listen to everybody," Bradley said. "We are here to protect our people."

Stormie Forte, an at-large candidate and incumbent, offered a different perspective, saying Raleigh already provides several ways for residents to communicate with their representatives. Forte pointed to public comment at City Council meetings, emails, and community events as opportunities for residents to raise concerns.

"We actually offer more public comment opportunities than the county commission and the school board," Forte said. "People see us out frequently in the community at a number of community events."

Clark Rinehart, a Democratic candidate for City Council at-large, argued that public comment, while important, represents only a small part of the work required to understand residents' needs. He said elected officials must also listen outside formal council meetings, including in neighborhoods and informal community settings.

Housing was another dominant issue, with candidates asked how they would help longtime residents remain in their homes as costs rise and new development reshapes neighborhoods.

Jared Olsen, a District C candidate for Raleigh City Council, emphasized preserving existing affordable housing and helping residents remain in their homes. He discussed rehabilitation assistance and the importance of maintaining existing affordable properties rather than relying exclusively on new construction.

Corey Branch, the current District C council member seeking reelection, also pointed to home rehabilitation programs and assistance for seniors who need help with major repairs. Branch discussed efforts to maintain affordable rental housing through long-term agreements where permitted by state law, arguing that preserving existing housing is an important part of keeping residents in their communities.

Candidates were also asked how the city should measure the success of public spending on homelessness services, including whether success should be defined by shelter availability or by the number of people who achieve stable housing over time.

Other candidates emphasized the importance of increasing the supply of affordable housing, partnering with nonprofit organizations and strengthening cooperation between Raleigh and Wake County. Their responses pointed to the need for a range of housing options, from rental units to homeownership opportunities, as well as services that help people experiencing homelessness move into stable housing.

The growth of large data centers emerged as another contentious issue, particularly because of their potential demands on water, electricity and local infrastructure.

Candidates were asked what authority Raleigh has to regulate data centers and where responsibility should rest with the state or county.

Cowell said the city could influence aspects of development through land-use regulations, noise restrictions and water-related policies but acknowledged that municipal authority does not extend to every part of the issue. She argued that coordination with state officials and other stakeholders would be necessary to address the broader implications of data-center development.

Armstrong took a more forceful position, arguing that additional facilities would be inappropriate in areas where resources are insufficient. She also said Raleigh should not necessarily wait for state or county action before addressing residents' concerns.

"Additional data centers are flatly inappropriate because we do not have enough water and space. Period," Armstrong said. "We do not need to wait for the state or the county."

Branch said the city must operate within the limits imposed by state law while using the tools available to it, including decisions involving annexation and development within municipal jurisdiction. He said city staff had been working on approaches to address the issue before a moratorium was considered.

Jane Harrison, a Democratic incumbent representing District D, emphasized the importance of incorporating environmental considerations into development decisions, particularly when projects could increase flooding downstream or affect drinking water. She said officials should establish clearer standards rather than relying on individual negotiations for each project, arguing that developers should understand the city's expectations before proposals reach the approval stage.

Mitchell Silver, a Republican candidate for City Council in District A, discussed Raleigh's existing process for evaluating traffic-calming requests through the transportation division, with assessments that can be brought before City Council. Silver said residents should have opportunities to challenge decisions when they disagree with the city's assessment and that officials must be willing to reconsider requests.

The gathering at Shaw University reinforced the message that voting is only one part of civic participation and that accountability continues after ballots are cast. Residents, organizers said, have a role in monitoring public decisions, asking questions, and ensuring elected officials follow through on their commitments.

The event was organized by PowerUp NC, a program of the North Carolina League of Conservation Voters Foundation, alongside Shaw University and several community partners.

A Federal Judge Lets NC's New Absentee Ballot Rules Stand

NC NEWSLINE - A federal court judge ruled against challengers of new absentee ballot requirements, saying the signature and envelope sealing requirements are not undue burdens.

In a ruling late Monday, Federal District Judge Thomas D. Schroeder wrote that the challengers were not likely to win after a trial and denied their request for a preliminary injunction.

In a rule the state Board of Elections adopted on Sept. 4 in a party-line vote, ballots that arrive in an unsealed inner envelope or only in a sealed outer envelope are no longer accepted. When county boards of election receive ballots in the outer envelope or in an unsealed inner envelope, they must send voters new ballots.

The North Carolina Alliance for Retired Americans, North Carolina Asian Americans Together, Down Home North Carolina, and two voters filed a federal lawsuit against the state Board of Elections and elections boards in Guilford and Durham, asking the court to block the rules for the 2026 midterm and future elections. They also challenged a signature verification requirement.

Schroeder wrote that the plaintiffs would have counties accept ballots that were clearly not signed by the voter.

"Plaintiffs' proposed remedy eliminates any verification of the signature, permitting a voter to sign anyone's name to the certification, even 'Mickey Mouse,'" he wrote.

The state board approved the rule the day the first absentee ballots were mailed. The plaintiffs filed their lawsuit 18 days later, a delay Schroeder said was significant. The state board told the court at last week's hearing that 31,582 absentee ballots had already been cast under the new rules.

Schroeder said the plaintiffs took too long to sue, and that they were unlikely to win on the merits.

"[T]he absentee voter who fails to seal his or her ballot correctly has an opportunity to correct a mistake, and is not barred from participating in early voting or voting on election day. Likewise, the voter whose signature is rejected for 'clear evidence' that it is not their name has an opportunity to submit another ballot, participate in early voting, or vote on election day," he wrote.